



City of Eustis

P.O. Drawer 68 • Eustis, Florida 32727-0068 • (352) 483-5430

TO: Eustis City Commission

FROM: Tom Carrino, City Manger

DATE: October 27, 2022

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO.22-83: EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANTS (FY2020-JAGC-Residual – 2020-MU-BX-0006)

Introduction:

Resolution No.22-83 authorizes the Mayor and the Chief of Police to accept and utilize funds in the amount of \$15,379.00 from the Federal Fiscal Year 2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant FY2020-JAGC-Residual – 2020-MU-BX-0006. The grant will be utilized for the purchase of two StarChase Pursuit Management Systems. The acquisition of the StarChase System will greatly increase both officer and public safety, by giving the Eustis Police Department the ability to apprehend fleeing suspects without prolonged and dangerous vehicle pursuits. One of the most perilous activities that law enforcement engages in is a vehicle pursuit. Such pursuits are dangerous and place both law enforcement and the public at risk. When suspects attempt to flee, law enforcement is faced with the decision to pursue or allow the suspect to escape (and attempt to apprehend at a later time). Either decision has the potential to place officers and the public at risk. The addition of the StarChase system to the techniques already available would alleviate the need for the officers of the Eustis Police Department to choose between engaging or not engaging in a vehicle pursuit; when encountering unknown or dangerous individuals intent on fleeing during routine encounters, traffic stops, or arrest situations.

The StarChase system is a patented product exclusively manufactured by StarChase, LLC. It can be utilized as a vehicle mounted or handheld device (vehicle mounted appears to be the most preferred, and is the method that the Eustis Police Department will utilize), that allow officers to remotely tag a vehicle from a distance with a global positioning system (GPS) tag, which is embedded in a projectile. When the projectile is triggered and launches it makes contact with a suspect's vehicle (usually the rear of the vehicle), which then enables the vehicle to be tracked in real-time giving officers an alternative to a high-speed pursuit.

In addition, the StarChase system provides the following abilities:

- Provides dispatch with real-time field visibility to assist coordinating apprehension, along with the ability to share data with neighboring jurisdictions

- A secure historical data tracking record for analysis and court utilization.
- Integration into existing agency systems, such as Computer Aided Dispatch.
- CoreView secure real-time mapping, which can be downloaded for indefinite historical record keeping, and allows tracking via computer, smartphone or tablet.

Recommended Action:

The administration recommends approval of Resolution No. 22-83.

Background:

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. JAG funds support all components of the criminal justice system, from multijurisdictional drug and gang task forces to crime prevention and domestic violence programs, courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives. JAG funds may be used for state and local initiatives, technical assistance, strategic planning, research and evaluation, data collection, training, personnel, equipment, forensic laboratories, supplies, contractual support, and criminal justice information systems that will improve or enhance such areas as:

- Law enforcement programs
- Prosecution and court programs
- Prevention and education programs.
- Corrections and community corrections programs
- Drug treatment and enforcement programs
- Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs
- Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation)

The Eustis Police Department has determined the following:

The best use of the current FY2020-JAGC-Residual – 2020-MU-BX-0006 award of \$15,379.00 would be the purchase of two StarChase Pursuit Management Systems.

The FY2020-JAGC-Residual – 2020-MU-BX-0006 grant award will allow the Eustis Police Department to acquire two StarChase Pursuit Management Systems. The acquisition of the StarChase Systems will significantly increase the ability of the Eustis Police Department to protect the citizens of the City of Eustis, while at the same time increasing officer safety, and its ability to assist other law enforcement agencies within the area.

Community Input:

There has been no specific community input associated with this resolution.

Budget/ Staff Impact:

The approximate \$15,379.00 purchase of the StarChase Pursuit Management System has a budget impact of approximately \$0.00 beyond the grant award of \$15,379.00. No monies from the police department's general fund will need to be utilized to cover the approximate \$0.00 difference.

Reviewed By:

Craig A. Capri, Chief of Police

Prepared By:

Richard J. Cerniglia, Accreditation and Grants Compliance Manager