



Jonesboro Police Department

1859 City Center Way, Jonesboro Georgia, 30236 Telephone 770-478-7407, Fax 678-479-1827

April 16, 2025

United States Congressman David Scott
468 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20525

Subject: Fiscal Year 2026 Community Funding Request

Dear Congressman David Scott:

The City of Jonesboro proudly acknowledges your dedicated service in representing Georgia's Thirteenth District, which includes Clayton County. Your leadership has resulted in securing over \$1 million in federal funding for the district, resolving more than 28,000 constituent cases, and achieving over \$20 million in savings through casework for your constituents. These accomplishments are a testament to the profound impact of your public service since your election to the Georgia General Assembly in 1974.

Jonesboro humbly requests to be a part of these increasing numbers of support. From the Dept. of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology & Equipment, we are requesting **\$1,671,122**.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Initiative as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding Request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. E. Cato".

Chief C. E. Cato

Jonesboro Police Department
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Honesty * Integrity * Professionalism * Transparency * Fairness

Section One: Contact

Requesting Entity

Official name of requesting entity: **City of Jonesboro**

Type of entity (non-profit, university, government, etc.): **Municipal Government**

Address: **1859 City Center Way Jonesboro, GA 30236**

Phone number: **770-478-3800**

Website: **www.jonesboroga.gov**

Point of Contact for Requesting Entity:

Name: **Christopher Cato**

Title: **Chief of Police**

Address: **1859 City Center Way Jonesboro, GA 30236**

Phone number: **404-772-6513**

Email address: **ccato@jonesboroga.gov**

Intermediary Contact (if applicable)

Name: **Shelby Bentley**

Title: **Executive Assistant**

Organization: **City of Jonesboro**

Address: **1859 City Center Way Jonesboro, GA 30236**

Phone number: **470-747-1489**

Email address: **sbentley@jonesboroga.gov**

Section Two: Official Request

Bill (e.g., Agriculture; CJS, Defense, T-HUD): **Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS)**

Account (must be one of the specific accounts listed above): **Department of Justice;
Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology & Equipment**

Suggested Title of Request: **City of Jonesboro enhancing its "Community Oriented Policing" Initiatives**

Detailed description of funding request:

• **Funding for a Message Board trailer**

1 Unit- Standard 54"x92" Message board trailer \$18,351

Purchase of a portable message board trailer, enhancing our ability to communicate vital information to the public during emergencies, events, and community outreach efforts.

- **Funding for 3 (three) portable light tower trailers**

3 Units- LED Light tower trailer, with shipping @ \$12,914.33 ea. = \$38,743

Purchase of 3 portable light tower trailers, significantly improving visibility and safety during nighttime emergency operations, special events, and disaster response efforts.

- **Funding for a Speed Detection trailer with a small message board**

1 Unit- Speed Detection Trailer with message board = \$18,716

Purchase of a speed detection trailer equipped with a small message board, enhancing traffic safety by promoting speed awareness and providing real-time driver feedback in high-risk and high-traffic areas.

- **Funding for Stop Sticks & Training**

30 Units- Stop sticks with all hardware @ \$509 ea. = \$15,270 + \$352 S&H = \$15,622

Tire deflation devices utilized to end vehicle pursuits, reducing the potential risk of injury or death to the suspect, law enforcement and/or motoring public.

- **Funding for 4 (four) Rapid ID devices**

4 Units- Mobile Rapid Identification Solutions for Patrol and Investigations; 4 @ \$2,144.00 ea. + Expanded Support Plan @\$884 per year = \$22,172

These units will be assigned to each shift and deployed when needed for the identification of persons missing, persons with dementia, criminals refusing to provide their correct information or deceased persons who are located with no identification on their person.

- **Funding for 4 portable Alco-Sensors**

4 Units- Roadside Alcohol Detection Devices @ \$810.00 ea. = \$3,240

These tools will be utilized by officers in the field to obtain a breath sample of person(s) believed to be intoxicated. Additionally, it can be utilized when investigating drivers who are operating motor vehicles while under the influence of alcohol.

- **Funding (6) six police vehicles per year.**

6 Units- Police Patrol Vehicles @ \$55,000 ea. + Upfitting @ \$26,750.32 ea. = \$654,002.56

This will aid in replacing our ageing and unreliable fleet of vehicles, thus ensuring we have dependable vehicles to provide prompt response to calls for emergency service within our community.

- **Funding for laptops**

10 Units- Dell Pro Rugged Pro 4 Laptops with handles @ \$4,027.50 ea. = \$40,275

The grant funding will be used to purchase laptops for police officers, enabling efficient report writing, real-time access to critical information, and enhanced communication while in the field. This technological upgrade will improve operational effectiveness and officer safety.

- **Funding for body and car cameras**

30 Axon Body 4 Units @ 15,333 ea. and 26 Axon Fleet 3 Units with Auto License Plate Reader Technology @ 15,353 ea. = \$860,000

This grant funding will be used to purchase body-worn and in-car cameras for police officers, enhancing transparency, accountability, and evidence collection during law enforcement interactions. This technology will also support officer safety and strengthen community trust.

Dollar amount requested (smaller requests are more likely to be funded):

\$1,671,122

Please provide a detailed spend plan and itemized budget (attach if needed) for the requested funding, breaking down anticipated expenditures for each major category of project activity:

Priority	Equipment/Materials	Cost
1	Body and Car Cameras	\$860,000
2	Police Vehicles	\$654,003
3	Laptops	\$40,275
4	Stop Sticks with hardware	\$15,622
5	4 rapid ID Devices	\$22,172
6	4 Roadside Alcohol Detection Devices	\$3,240
7	Speed detection trailer with small message board	\$18,716
8	LED Light Towers with shipping	\$38,743
9	Message Board Trailer	\$18,351
	Grand total	\$1,671,122

Awarded
\$1,031,000.00

How this request, if funded, will help GA-13, the State of Georgia more broadly, and the nation:

The requested law enforcement equipment is essential to safeguarding the City of Jonesboro and its residents. In a dynamic and evolving landscape of threats and challenges, law enforcement agencies require adequate resources to fulfill their duty to protect and serve. We hope through this appropriation request process that we can equip our law enforcement personnel with the necessary tools to effectively combat crime, ensure public safety, and maintain community trust.

The acquisition of this equipment is imperative for enhancing the capabilities of law enforcement officers in Jonesboro. It enables them to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies, apprehend criminals, and deter criminal activity. Investing in modern law enforcement equipment aligns with the community's expectations for effective policing. By equipping officers with state-of-the-art tools, we empower them to perform their duties with professionalism, efficiency, and accountability. This fosters greater trust and collaboration between our law enforcement agency and our community, promoting a safer and more secure environment for all residents.

This appropriation request for law enforcement equipment is not just about acquiring hardware- it is about investing in the safety, well-being, and prosperity of the 5,000 plus residents, the workforce, businesses, and tourists. By providing our law enforcement personnel with the resources they need, we affirm our commitment to ensuring that every resident can live, work, play, and thrive in a secure and resilient community. The county population is around 298,300 and the number of employments in the county is around 74,382. The economic impact from tourism in the county is over \$467.1 million, which ranks eight in the state of Georgia. We believe that we can have an impact not only in

serving the city, but also the county and overall states and nations' mission in crime reduction.

Your support in championing these initiatives will not only enhance public safety but also contribute to the long-term well-being of our city. Our strategy revolves around three key pillars: proactive policing, community partnerships, and youth involvement. Through proactive policing measures such as targeted patrols, intelligence-led operations, and strategic resource allocation, we aim to prevent crime before it occurs while also addressing underlying issues contributing to criminal activity. I write to emphasize the crucial need for community engagement, especially youth involvement, in deterring criminal activities within Jonesboro. Engaging with the community, particularly its youth, is not merely an initiative-taking measure but a fundamental strategy for crime prevention. Since we currently do not have a parks and recreation department, the Jonesboro Police Department wants to make sure we are engaging with the youth as much as possible.

Additionally, fostering strong community partnerships is fundamental to our approach. We actively collaborate with residents, businesses, faith-based organizations, and other stakeholders to address community concerns, build trust, and empower residents to play an active role in crime prevention efforts. Our community policing initiatives, including neighborhood watch programs, community forums, and police-community events, facilitate open communication and collaboration between law enforcement and the community we serve. Through these initiatives, we not only deter youth involvement in criminal activity but also foster positive relationships between law enforcement and the next generation of community leaders.

This plan would be evaluated quarterly. The data collected throughout the year will document the numbers of events held, projects initiated versus completed, and measurable participant success rates as they relate to the crime rates of previous years. As we continue to implement and refine our plan, we recognize the importance of federal support in achieving our goals.

I urge you to consider the allocation of funds and resources that prioritize community-oriented policing strategies, support youth development programs, and promote collaboration between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your support in our efforts to create a safer, more vibrant community.

Describe the current status of this project; describe any previous requests you have made for government (federal, state, local) funding; and confirm that, if funding is provided, the project can be implemented swiftly and effectively:

The City of Jonesboro has started the Community Policing Initiative. In 2023 we received the Public Safety and Community Violence Reduction Grant (PSCVRG). This grant is being used for Law Enforcement staffing, violent crime reduction programs, equipment and technology, community violence intervention programs and a community garden. The total amount is 1,160,033.60, however this restricts us from fleet and certain equipment listed in this request.

Once funding is secured, we will promptly and effectively advance our Community Policing Initiative, expanding its scope to include proactive measures that prioritize community safety, foster stronger relationships between law enforcement and residents, and ensure a more responsive, inclusive approach to public safety.

Please outline what supporting materials you have to demonstrate community need and community support for this project (and attach documents, including at least two letters of support). Who are the participating community partners?

The participating community partners in our community-oriented policing grant initiatives include local schools, neighborhood associations, faith-based organizations, social service agencies, youth programs, and business groups. These partners play a vital role by collaborating with law enforcement to identify community needs, support outreach efforts, and implement trust-building strategies that enhance public safety and improve quality of life.

See attached for letters of support and Budget Detail Worksheet from Governor's Office of Planning and Budget who facilitated the Public Safety and Community Violence Reduction Grant (PSCVRG).

Can the project obligate all appropriated funds within 12 months after enactment? What are the estimated start and end dates?

Yes. This project will obligate all appropriated funds within 12 months. January 01, 2026 - December 31, 2026 is the estimated spending timeframe; however, the Community Oriented Policing initiative will always be a part of the City of Jonesboro practices.

Please use this space to input any additional information that is required/requested pursuant to the account-specific Appropriations Committee instructions. Please strictly adhere to the relevant Submission Guidance documents that are hyperlinked on Page 2 and 3 of this document:

Can this project spend a smaller amount of appropriated funds within 12 months of the enactment of the appropriations act? [y/n] If yes, please provide any details that may be helpful for understanding the scalability of the project.

Yes. We believe that an investment of \$860,000 in body-worn and in-car cameras would have a profoundly positive impact on our community by enhancing transparency, accountability, and public trust in law enforcement.

Funding for body-worn and car cameras presents a highly impactful opportunity for the community by enhancing transparency, accountability, and trust between law enforcement and the public. These technologies provide objective documentation of police interactions, which can be invaluable for investigations, training, and building public confidence. Additionally, they serve as a deterrent to misconduct, promote professionalism, and offer critical evidence that can support both officer and civilian accounts, contributing to safer, more respectful, and informed community policing.