**Stafford County Sheriff’s Office JAG Grant Proposal FY2024-Project Narrative**

**Applicant Jurisdictional Background:**

The Stafford County Sheriff’s Office is a full-service local law enforcement agency providing service to approximately 167,000 residents and thousands of annual visitors to Stafford County, Virginia. The Department provides service through 346 dedicated employees, 257 being sworn deputy sheriffs. The Department conducts multiple activities to prevent crimes, engages in community policing efforts and activities, and strives for close, positive relationships with community members and organizations. The Department answers over 150,000 calls for service from the community annually.

**Program Overview:**

The Stafford County Sheriff’s Office is responsible for the safety and security of the Stafford County Courthouse. On a daily average, there are multiple courts that are in session and running simultaneously. They consist of three Circuit Courts, two General District Courts, and two Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts. There are over 100,000 people that enter the courthouse annually. Currently the Sheriff’s Office Court Deputies operate three Auto-Clear X-Ray baggage scanners. The newest of the three was purchased 9/14/2022. This equipment is located at the main entrance into the courthouse and is in use daily.

The second machine is located at the employee/jury entrance and is used when we have jury trials. This machine was purchased 6/25/2015.

The third and oldest machine is used as a spare. This machine was purchased 4/9/2007. The purpose of these machines is to scan all property that is being brought into the courthouse. (Security and safety of employees and all citizens that visit our courthouse.)

The need for an X-Ray machine is due to the age and function of the two old machines we currently use. This past year the courts ran into a problem where two of the x-ray machines had problems and could not be used. This left us with no baggage scanner at the employee/jury entrance. As the machine get older it is getting harder to have them repaired due to technology always moving forward and the equipment becoming outdated. There is currently no funding source for replacements. These machines are critical in helping to keep the judges, citizens, attorney, and staff safe.

The cost of the X-Ray Machine is $25,600.

The response to active shooting incidents remains a top concern and priority for the Stafford County Sheriff’s Office. According to the FBI, the 2022 data reflects that a rifle was utilized in 48% of all active shooter incidents. This data point only encapsulates 2022 shootings. Multiple internet sources including forbes.com estimate the number of AR15 rifles in circulation in the United States consists anywhere from 24 million to 44 million. A record breaking 2.8 million AR15 and AK style rifles were imported or manufactured in 2020 alone. Most deadly mass shooting incidents involved AR15 style rifles, including Sandy Hook, San Bernardino, Parkland, Uvalde, Las Vegas, Aurora, and others. To respond to this threat, it is imperative that law enforcement have the appropriate equipment to respond and end the killing. The Stafford Sheriff’s Office needs to acquire shields that are rated to withstand the impact of these two common calibers of ammunition; the 5.56mm projectile from an AR15 platform and the 7.62mm projectile from AK variant rifles. As technology has improved, manufactures of ballistic protective equipment have been able to reduce the weight of rifle rated materials that can be carried by deputies in the field. Previously, rifle rated shields were either too heavy or too expensive. This is no longer the case and the Stafford County Sheriff’s Office seeks to utilize this grant for the purchase of one ballistic shield. Stafford County currently has 31 schools that we protect. This equipment is needed should an emergency response be required.

The cost of the Ballistic Shield is $8100.00

Total cost of all projects = $33,700.00

**Program Goals and Objectives: (X-Ray Machine)**

1. Purchase and set up new X-Ray Machine in the Stafford County Courthouse for safety and security screenings conducted by Court Deputies.

**Implementation Schedule**

Month (Post Award) Action

I Secure final purchase authorization and cost.

II Order product to achieve goals.

III Receive product and install new product.

IV Utilize new product.

**Program Goals and Objectives: (Ballistic Shield)**

1. Provide Ballistic Shield equipment to the Field Operations Division for deployment.

**Implementation Schedule**

Month (Post Award) Action

I Secure final purchase authorization and cost.

II Order product to achieve goals.

III Receive equipment and distribute to appropriate division.

IV Confirm equipment assignment and success of deployment.

**Metrics:**

Appropriate data for each of the goals will be documented during the grant period. This information will include, but not be limited to, cost, brand of product, model number of product and location of deployment through serial numbers on each item. Collection of that data will be through existing systems in purchasing, budget, finance, and personnel in the agency. The program manager will verify data collection during the grant period.