



SFY2025 Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) Application

Massachusetts Office of Grants and Research (OGR), Justice and Prevention Division

Introduction

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR) will make available approximately **\$3,000,000** from the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program for Municipal Police Departments to competitively solicit federal funding to address local law enforcement prevention, intervention, and suppression-related programming needs.

Applicant Eligibility

Only a Police Department from a Massachusetts municipality (local unit of government) is eligible to apply for up to **\$40,000**.

A police department must be the primary applicant, however, the applicant may subaward grant funds to community partners to support the project.

Only one (1) application per municipality is permitted for submission. OGR reserves the right to disqualify a municipality from being eligible for an award if that municipality submits more than one application for consideration of funding.

For more details, please review the Availability of Grant Funds on our [website](#)

Key Dates

AGF Posted: **Wednesday, May 7, 2025**

Application Assistance Webinar: **Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 10:00 AM**

Question & Answer Period: **May 7 - May 30, 2025 by 4:00 PM**

Application Due: **Friday, June 13, 2025 by 4:00pm**

Anticipated Award Announcements: **July - August 2025**

Performance Period: **September 2025 - August 31, 2026**

Please email all questions related to this application to **Senior Program Manager, Jim Houghton** at **James.Houghton@mass.gov**

Directions

Please complete all sections in this application.

The "Save" feature at the bottom of each page allows you to save your responses and provides you with a unique link to return at a later time without losing any information you have entered. Please save periodically to avoid losing any information. If you mistakenly close the page before saving, your responses will not be saved. Once you have completed all relevant sections in the application, click the "Submit" button.

Please note that once you submit the application, you will not be able to edit your responses.

Applicant Name

Somerville Police Department

Applicant Address

220 Washington Street, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

Authorizing Official Contact

Name

Katjana Ballantyne

Job Title

Mayor

Email

mayor@somervillema.gov

Phone

(617) 625-6600 x2100

Is the Authorizing Official Contact mailing address the same as the agency address (physical location)?

No

Mailing Address

93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

Grant Point of Contact

Name

Shumeane Benford

Job Title

Chief of Police

Email

sbenford@police.somerville.ma.us

Phone

(617) 625-1600 x7450

Fiscal Contract Manager Contact

Name

Emily Wisdom

Job Title

SPD Director of Finance and Administration

Email

ewisdom@police.somerville.ma.us

Phone

(617) 625-1600 x7239

Are you currently registered in SAM.gov?

Yes

Do you have a UEI number?

Yes

UEI Number

KV62KX4QF3N8

Project Summary

Please briefly summarize the activities, programs and/or equipment to be purchased if awarded these grant funds

The Somerville Police Department will purchase and install 5 Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs), using 3 to replace its outmoded MDTs and providing 2 to the Somerville Housing Authority Police Department to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Please select the most appropriate statutory program area that your department is requesting JAG/Byrne funds for:

Law Enforcement Programs

Non-Supplant

I hereby certify that, in accordance with DOJ Financial Guidelines, the

Somerville Police Department

has been informed by the Office of Grants and Research that supplanting of JAG funds is strictly prohibited and if awarded will not use grant funds to replace state and local funds that would, in the absence of such assistance, otherwise be made available for this law enforcement purpose

Please confirm this statement

Yes

Statewide Interoperability: Interoperable Communications Investment Proposal (ICIP)

Are you requesting funds for interoperable communications? If so, your application requires the upload of the ICIP form to this application for SIEC review and approval.

No

Application Narrative

Needs Assessment: Please number each response to correspond with the

questions below

Use the space provided to:

- 1) Provide a description of the law enforcement department and community to benefit from this application,
- 2) Describe in detail the current unmet law enforcement, criminal justice, or public safety needs,
- 3) The sources or methods used for assessing the problem should also be described.
- 4) Further explain why such criminal justice needs stated have not been previously met to justify a need for federal grant funds.
- 5) Describe any negative effect, potential consequences, or impact on the department and/or community as a result of not having the services and items requested.

Needs Assessment

1) With 80,407 residents in a land area of 4.1 square miles, Somerville is the most densely populated city in New England. A diverse and vibrant urban community, it is home to blue-collar families, young professionals, college students, and recent immigrants. 2023 U.S. Census 5-Year American Community Survey data show that Somerville's population is 69.5% White, 11.7% Asian, 9.3% biracial/multiracial, 4.6% Black/African American, 4.6% other, and 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native. Just over 11% of the city's residents are Hispanic/Latino. 28% of residents speak a language other than English at home. Among Somerville Public School students, 52.5% have a first language other than English, and 24.6% are English language learners.

The city's poverty rate is relatively low—12.4%—but there is an economic divide between white collar professionals and the many low-income families that have come to Somerville for a better life. Illustrating this divide, 60.2% of Somerville Public Schools students have been designated as high needs and 46.8% as low-income. The city also has 6 Federal and 3 State public housing developments with a total of more than 1,000 housing units.

The Somerville Police Department (SPD) is the municipal law enforcement agency for the City of Somerville. It has 123 sworn officers and 3 stations. In FY24, the SPD had 77,458 total calls for service and made 239 arrests.

2) The SPD has 19 cruiser-mounted Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) through which its officers receive essential real-time incident data for on-scene situational awareness. Six (31.5%) of these MDTs are over 10 years old and run an outdated operating system (Windows 7), although the industry standard for the lifecycle of a Windows-based public safety device is typically 3 to 5 years. Our old MDTs are increasingly vulnerable to viruses and cyberattacks, but we have no spare MDTs with which to replace them and lack the funds to purchase new ones. Continued use of the outdated, unreliable MDTs poses a serious risk to system integrity and data security.

While the SPD has primary responsibility for law enforcement at every address in Somerville, it receives support from the Somerville Housing Authority Police Department (SHA PD) at the city's 9 public housing developments and communities. In 2024, 35 violent crimes occurred at the Mystic and Clarendon Hill developments – nearly 10% (7.7%) of all violent crimes that took place in Somerville during this time period – so the SHA PD's assistance is critical.

The 2 departments work closely together. The SPD dispatches SHA PD officers and provides them with

portable police radios and annual mandatory in-service training. We co-respond to calls for service, and the SHA PD responds as the primary unit to lower priority calls for service.

The SHA PD has 4 funded officers and 2 cruisers, but neither cruiser is equipped with an MDT. This limits SHA PD officers' access to real-time data in the field, and compels them to rely solely on radio communication as their only source of incident information. Installing MDTs in the SHA PD cruisers will greatly improve officers' ability to conduct situational analyses and improve their efficiency, effectiveness, and safety. It will also increase the SPD and SHA PD's ability to seamlessly coordinate incident response.

3) The SPD identified the problem of outdated MDTs as a result of the additional time required for maintenance and repairs, the need for more frequent repairs, and user feedback about the slow performance of this equipment. The 6 devices that are more than 10 years old are significantly slower than newer models and are running Windows 7 for which Microsoft ended standard support on Jan 14, 2020.

4) The Somerville Police Department's FY26 budget has a very small (\$1,600) line item for computer equipment so lacks the resources to replace aging MDTs. Our department budget is entirely funded by municipal tax dollars and, with development of the FY26 budget, all City departments were instructed to keep their non-personnel budgets level. The increases in our budget for FY26 include contractually mandated personnel increases and related payroll costs such as health insurance. For non-personnel budget lines, only the Medical & Dental Services line saw an increase; all other lines are either level-funded or reduced.

This conservative planning for the upcoming fiscal year is not limited to Somerville. Communities across the Commonwealth are facing reduced state aid; grant funds being restricted by the federal government; the end of pandemic-related funding, including ARPA dollars; an inflationary environment that is driving up construction, supplies, and materials costs; and increased school costs, such as higher out-of-district placement fees and higher transportation costs. The SPD fortunately has budgeted funds for equipment and software maintenance so will be able to maintain the MDTs after the 3-year warranty has expired. In addition, these costs for 5 MDTs are negligible. However, without Byrne JAG funding, even purchasing these MDTs would be a non-starter.

5) Because our MDTs are used every day and are indispensable to SPD service delivery, a continuing decline in their functionality and reliability will have adverse consequences for operational readiness, situational awareness, and officer safety. If we are unable to replace these outdated computers, then the SPD faces the prospect of lengthy out-of-service time and costly repairs to keep its MDTs in working order. This equipment also presents an ongoing security risk since it is susceptible to viruses and cyberattacks.

If the SHA PD cannot acquire MDTs, then its ability to support the SPD will remain limited due to reduced efficiency in responding to calls and difficulty accessing real-time data. Without adequate on-scene data, SHA PD officers will be less able to make informed decisions, decreasing their effectiveness and placing them at greater risk.

Charts/Graphs Upload (optional)

Project Description: Please number each response to correspond with the questions below

Use the space provided to:

1) Clearly describe the programs, services, activities, and/or equipment being proposed,

- 2) Discuss how the proposed programming/initiative correlates to the needs assessment provided,
- 3) Describe the experience and expertise of personnel involved in the project and their responsibilities.
- 4) Cite any local procurement rules/regulations that must be complied with to purchase the items or services described, ensuring they meet state and federal requirements,
- 5) Describe the expected benefits (outcomes) for the officers, individuals to be served and/or community as a whole as a result of receiving a grant award.

Project Description

1) The Somerville Police Department (SPD) proposes to purchase and install 5 Mobile Data Terminals (MDT). Three of the new MDTs will replace the SPD's outmoded cruiser-mounted computers, improving the functionality and reliability of this critical piece of equipment. The other 2 MDTs will be installed in Somerville Housing Authority Police Department (SHA PD) cruisers to significantly expand that department's capabilities for on-scene situational analysis.

2) By replacing 3 of its aging MDTs, the SPD will avoid the escalating cost of maintaining old equipment and the increasing risk that this equipment could fail or fall prey to viruses and cyberattacks. The introduction of new MDTs will also prevent operational inefficiencies (e.g., slower performance, incompatibility, downtime for repairs) that can result from the continued utilization of old, outdated technology.

The SHA PD's lack of MDTs delays its response times, limits its use of timely incident data, and reduces officers' situational awareness. Use of MDTs will substantially increase the SHA PD's operational efficiency and effectiveness, giving its officers access to critical on-scene data and information.

3) The following SPD staff will be involved in the project:

Shumeane Benford, Chief of Police will provide strategic guidance and supervise project staff. He has over 30 years of law enforcement and emergency management experience and, prior to accepting his current role as Somerville's Chief of Police, served as both the Police Chief of the Boston Housing Authority and Boston's Chief of Emergency Management. Chief Benford has led reform and organizational change in a range of areas, including technology advances such as online incident reporting, as well as modernization to 21st century policing; community-based partnerships, problem solving, and prevention; emergency management planning, response, and homeland security strategy; training reform; interdisciplinary law enforcement and medical response structures for unhoused, treatment, and pre-release residents; fair and impartial policing; and pathways for growth and opportunity for vulnerable residents. He has a Master's degree in political science from Suffolk University, a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice from Curry College, and a range of additional certifications, which include the Police Executive Research Form (PERF/SMIP), Harvard University's National Preparedness Leadership Initiative (NPLI), and the Naval Post Graduate School, Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS).

Emily Wisdom, SPD Director of Finance and Administration will provide fiscal oversight, manage the purchase of the MDTs, track grant expenditures, and prepare and submit grant reports. Before she began her employment at the City of Somerville, Ms. Wisdom was a Project Director at the City of Boston where she managed the \$11M Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant. Her other previous jobs included serving as a Legal Assistant at Hartmann, Duffe & Pegram Law Office, Executive Director of Shared Blessings, Inc., and a Nonprofit Tax Prep Contractor and Staff Accountant at The Charity CFO, LLC. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and management from the University of Missouri-Saint Louis and an MBA degree from Liberty University.

Matthew Desmond, Senior IT Specialist will manage installation and testing of the MDTs and assist with the preparation of grant reports. Mr. Desmond has worked for the Somerville Police Department for 9 years. He previously served as an IT Specialist at the Somerville Public Schools, a Computer Operations Technician at Tufts University, an IT Helpdesk Technician at GTE Internetworking, and a Computer Operator at BBN Technologies/GTE Internetworking.

4) The SPD has obtained a quote for the MDTs from a vendor on the statewide contract. If awarded a grant, we will obtain additional quotes from at least 2 other qualified vendors on the statewide contract and purchase the MDTs from the vendor who meets our equipment specifications and offers the most favorable pricing.

5) The new MDTs will benefit SPD officers through smoother operation and faster processing, and SHA PD officers will gain access to up-to-the-minute data. The Somerville community as a whole -- and the public housing community in particular -- will benefit from officers who are better prepared to build trust, appropriately identify threats, make informed decisions, and de-escalate incidents.

Goals, Objectives, Outcomes & Timeline

Goal 1

Goal 1

To replace its outmoded Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs), the Somerville Police Department (SPD) will purchase and install 3 cruiser-mounted MDTs

Objectives, Activities, and Timeline

Objectives	Activities	Start Date	End Date	Person Responsible
Purchase 3 MDTs	Request additional quotes from at least 2 approved vendors on statewide contract; review quotes; select vendor; place order for MDTs	9/15/2025	11/15/2025	Dir. of Finance & Administration
Install 3 MDTs in SPD cruisers	Monitor vendor's installation of 3 MDTs in SPD cruisers; test equipment to ensure MDTs are working correctly	11/15/2025	1/15/2026	Sr. IT Specialist
Evaluate impact of 3 SPD MDTs	Document installation; collect data on use of MDTs; submit final grant report	1/15/2026	8/15/2026	Dir. of Finance & Administration

Outcomes

A 50% increase in the SPD's up-to-date MDTs; the SPD also expects the new, faster MDTs to reduce the average time spent on reports, as well as overtime for reporting, since officers will not have to come back to the station to find a computer on which to write their reports and can spend more time on patrol.

Please demonstrate who and how you will gather the appropriate data to complete and submit OGR quarterly progress reports, as well as quarterly and semi-annual BJA Performance Measures through their online reporting system. Also state that reports will be submitted prior to or no later than the due date to ensure compliance so that reimbursements will not be held.

Successful installation of 3 MDTs will be documented by the SPD's Senior IT Specialist, and the frequency of MDT use will be captured in MDT transaction logs. Reports will be submitted prior to or no later than the due date to ensure compliance.

Estimated project completion period (the estimated time needed to complete all project activities and submit final report)

12 months

Goal 2

Goal 2

To improve interdepartmental communication and coordination and the Somerville Housing Authority Police Department's (SHA PD) operational effectiveness, the SPD will provide SHA PD with 2 MDTs

Objectives, Activities, and Timeline

Objectives	Activities	Start Date	End Date	Person Responsible
Execute Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SHA PD to provide the department with 2 MDTs	Draft MOU regarding ownership, use, and maintenance of 2 MDTs; review and revise MOU as needed; obtain signatures; disseminate copies	8/15/2025	9/15/2025	Dir. of Finance & Administration
Purchase 2 MDTs	Request additional quotes from at least 2 approved vendors on statewide contract; review quotes; select vendor; place order for MDTs	9/15/2025	11/15/2025	Dir. of Finance & Administration
Install 2 MDTs in SHA PD cruisers	Monitor vendor's installation of 2 MDTs in SHA PD cruisers; test equipment to ensure MDTs are working correctly	11/15/2025	1/15/2026	Sr. IT Specialist
Evaluate impact of 2 SHA PD MDTs	Collect data on use of MDTs; submit final grant report	1/15/2026	8/15/2026	Dir. of Finance & Administration

Outcomes

A 25% increase in communication and coordination between SPD and SHA PD; a 100% increase in the SHA PD's ability to retrieve real-time data for use at crime scene incidents; the SPD also expects the

MDTs to reduce the SHA PD's response time and streamline its documentation and reporting processes.

Please demonstrate who and how you will gather the appropriate data to complete and submit OGR quarterly progress reports, as well as quarterly and semi-annual BJA Performance Measures through their online reporting system. Also state that reports will be submitted prior to or no later than the due date to ensure compliance so that reimbursements will not be held.

The communication and coordination that occurs between SPD and SHA PD will be tracked through the SPD's computer-aided dispatch system. The frequency of SHA PD's use of real-time incident data will be captured in MDT transaction logs. Reports will be submitted prior to or no later than the due date to ensure compliance.

Estimated project completion period (the estimated time needed to complete all project activities and submit final report)

12 months

Budget

Please refer to Appendix A for allowable budget cost categories and descriptions

Dollar amount of funding requested in your application

\$37,617.10

Budget Narrative

For each cost category that has an associated funding request in the Budget Excel Worksheet, please provide an overall description and justification of that cost category. The budget category narratives should describe what the budget entails, why the items in that category are needed, and how the budgeted amount was determined. Please include any hires under personnel, a particular training, supplies needed, vendor information or process for selecting a vendor, where applicable. Applicants should submit a budget for *up to* approximately 12 months.

Does the budget for this project include personnel costs?

No

Does the budget for this project include overtime costs?

No

Does the budget for this project include fringe & payroll tax costs?

No

Does the budget for this project include indirect rate costs?

No

Does the budget for this project include consultants/contract costs?

No

Does the budget for this project include equipment & technology costs?

Yes

Equipment & Technology Narrative

The total cost to purchase and install 5 MDTs is \$37,617.10. This includes \$18,975.00 for the portable MDTs with Intel Core processor, RAM, hard

Equipment & Technology Costs

\$37,617.10

drive, touch screen, internal battery, ambient light sensor, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, front and rear camera, dual digital microphones, stereo speakers, 2 USB ports, side-mount handle, shock-absorbing bumpers, and 3-year warranty; \$3,355.00 for on-dash tablet and keyboard mounts; \$3,000.00 for installation; \$2,975.00 for low-profile docks with power cable and 3-year warranty; \$2,725.00 for embedded cellular modems; \$1,765.00 for embedded 2D bar code scanners; \$1,375.00 for direct-mount antennas; \$1,335 for keyboards, each with 2 cables; \$1,045.00 for Windows 11 operating systems; \$500.00 for sunlight readable optically bonded displays; \$295.00 for integrated kick stands; \$75.00 for adaptor gaskets to fit on the ribs of 2020 Ford Explorer and higher models; and \$197.10 for shipping.

These budget amounts were identified by obtaining a quote from a vendor on the statewide contract. The MDTs are needed to replace the SPD's outmoded equipment and to provide SHA PD with new capability to access real-time data, conduct situational analyses, and improve communication and coordination between the 2 departments.

Does the budget for this project include supplies costs?

No

Does the budget for this project include travel costs?

No

Does the budget for this project include subawards costs?

No

Does the budget for this project include other costs?

No

Cost Categories Total

\$37,617.10

Document Upload

Application forms listed below can be downloaded from our [website here](#).

Budget Excel Worksheet Form (Summary and Details sheets)

Somerville_SFY25ByrneJAGAttachmentA.xlsm

Fringe Rate Agreement

Risk Assessment Form

Somerville_ByrneJAGOGSubrecipientRiskAssessment.pdf

Authorizing Official Signature

As the Authorizing Official of

Somerville Police Department,

I am requesting funds for the SFY2025 Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant award from the Office of Grants and Research. I have reviewed and approve the content contained in this application being submitted for consideration of funding.

I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information provided herein is true, complete, and accurate. I am aware that the provision of false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative consequences including, but not limited to violations of U.S. Code Title 18, Sections 2, 1001, 1343 and Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-3812.

Each such certification must be maintained pursuant to the requirements of § 200.334. This paragraph applies to all tiers of subrecipients.

Name of Applicant

Somerville Police Department

Authorizing Official Name

Katjana Ballantyne

Job Title

Mayor

Signature

Date

6/12/2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katjana Ballantyne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The confirmation email will go to the grant contact at this email:

sbenford@police.somerville.ma.us

If this is incorrect, please update the email address in the Grant Point of Contact section.