



# MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Mayor and City Councilors

**FROM:** Rich Olson, City Manager  
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr. Chief of Police

**DATE:** June 5, 2013

**RE:** Consideration – Application for Local Solicitation Grant (JAG Office)

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***BACKGROUND:***

The Elizabeth City Police Department's 12-member SWAT Team trains on a monthly basis and is prepared to respond in critical incidents including escape of fugitives, felony search warrants, active shooter and potential hostage and/or kidnapping/barricade situations. The ECPD SWAT Team is the only tactical team within the seven-county region and provides assistance to all surrounding counties and jurisdictions in the event their assistance is needed. The ECPD SWAT Team could benefit from additional equipment; and due to budget restraints, is seeking to acquire additional equipment through the Department of Justice (JAG Office) through their yearly local solicitation grant funding.

The FY13 JAG funding announcement was released on Friday, May 31, 2013 and the grant application is due no later than July 9, 2013. This fiscal year's allotment is for a total of \$10,351. The Elizabeth City Police Department has been utilizing local JAG solicitation funds since 2009 and is currently up-to-date with all mandatory reporting requirements of the US Department of Justice. Local block grants are great opportunities for law enforcement agencies to acquire new equipment or expand on their existing public safety/crime prevention programs. These funds will greatly benefit the department. The grant requires no matching funds on the part of the City.

***ANALYSIS:***

The Elizabeth City Police Department is currently seeking equipment grant opportunities for its SWAT Team. Specifically, the SWAT Team is seeking to acquire the following equipment items:

(3) Streamlight TLR-1 Tactical LED Gun Lights                      Value: \$ 275.89

(1) Point Blank 4 x 6 Level IIIA Ballistic Blanket	Value: \$1,475.91
(3) EOTech Holographic Sights	Value: \$1,562.91
(12) SGE 400 Gas Masks	Value: \$3,369.51
(1) Protech Tactical Ballistic Shield	Value: \$1,890.86
(12) Handfree Communications Headsets	Value: <u>\$1,775.91</u>

**TOTAL:                    \$10,350.99**

The items listed above will allow the SWAT Team to have a greater tactical advantage in the event a critical incident occurs. The equipment will also be utilized during training to enhance the team's performance during a live call-out. The ECPD SWAT Team not only provides assistance to the Elizabeth City jurisdiction but to all the surrounding counties. Other, smaller agencies in this area do not have the resources to employ a 12 person tactical team that is ready to deploy at any time. The equipment listed above would not only benefit our residents, but also our surrounding neighbors in Northeastern North Carolina as well.

Lastly, in light of recent school tragedies occurring throughout our Nation, the JAG Office has placed a high priority on the reduction of gun violence in connection with these grant funds. Acquisition of this equipment would support the Department of Justice's overall pro-active plan in the support of reduction of gun violence in our schools and communities. The SWAT Team, if deployed in an active shooting, could potentially save lives and the acquisition of the above equipment would help them do their jobs more accurately, keeping both themselves and members of the public safe.

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their meeting held on June 5, 2013 and recommends approval.

***STAFF RECOMMENDATION:***

By motion, authorize the Elizabeth City Police Department to submit a grant application to the Department of Justice (JAG Office) for its FY13 Local Solicitation Grant in the amount of \$10,351; and that the grant funds be used to purchase needed SWAT equipment for its 12-member tactical team.