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PRESS RELEASE

Sumner Receives JAG Grant for Technology and Community-Oriented Policing

Sumner, WA—On July 3, 2009, Sumner Police received word that the department had been awarded \$32,835 from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. Sumner will use this funding to both purchase improved technology and support community-oriented policing projects.

For technology, this funding will allow Sumner Police to purchase a live scan fingerprint machine and crime scene diagramming software. The purchase of a live scan machine will allow officers to obtain digital fingerprints from suspects at the time of arrest. It can also be used for collecting elimination prints from crime victims and to provide fingerprints to the public for job applications. This piece of technology is long overdue and is something that the department had unsuccessfully asked for in previous budget requests. The diagramming software will be used in conjunction with the Total Station Survey Equipment that collects data to diagram crime scenes to scale. The software will supplement existing software platforms and provide additional functionality for traffic collision investigators.

For community-oriented policing, this grant will primarily fund overtime to allow officers to attend teen events held in the community. Another portion of the money will be used to purchase equipment for the department's new Police Explorer program.

“Grants like this are perfect because they help us not only fund the equipment but also the time for our officers to be out interacting with our citizens,” said Mayor Dave Enslow. “It’s that hands-on approach that so many of us Sumner residents and our visitors value and appreciate.”

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The funding for the Byrne grant comes from Federal stimulus money. It joins other grants that Sumner has received this year, including the following:

- \$93,682.50 from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to fund an officer for a year to work as a gang prevention officer,
- \$3,800 from a Traffic Safety Equipment Grant for patrol equipment,
- \$25,000 from the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority to purchase a vehicle for a detective assigned to the regional auto theft task force.

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