



Oxnard council approves bid for Justice Department grant

By Gareth Dodd
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The Oxnard City Council adopted a resolution this week authorizing staff to apply for more than \$1 million in U.S. Department of Justice grant funds under a joint agreement with Ventura County and the cities of Ventura, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula and Simi Valley.

The council also approved Tuesday a memorandum of understanding designating Oxnard as the lead agency and fiscal agent seeking funds from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. As lead agency, Oxnard will submit the application on behalf of all parties, will receive the award and then disburse it to other grantees within the county.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 appropriated \$2 billion nationwide for justice assistance grant funding. The Bureau of Justice Statistics announced a combined award for agencies within Ventura County of \$1,007,166.

The money is to be used to improve or enhance law enforcement programs and preserve and/or create jobs. The grant money can be used for state and local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support and information systems for criminal justice.

Oxnard's share of the funds — \$378,809 — will go toward a CAD/RMS maintenance agreement (\$175,502), radio communications improvements (\$135,000), cultural proficiency training (\$40,000) and the Student Truancy Offender Program (\$28,307). Oxnard will receive an additional \$50,358 for administering the grant.

Ventura will receive \$150,560, and the county will receive \$87,024. Next are Simi Valley, \$83,109; Thousand Oaks, \$75,581; Port Hueneme, \$45,620; Camarillo, \$45,469; Santa Paula, \$44,415; Fillmore, \$26,498; and Moorpark, \$19,723.



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