

Program Narrative

The City of Lowell, Massachusetts is a diverse community of over 106,000 residents. Nearly one-third of these residents have emigrated from a variety of countries including Brazil, Portugal, Africa, and Cambodia. The Lowell Police Department (LPD) currently consists of 228 sworn full-time officers who are responsible for patrolling 14.5 square miles. Annually officers respond to over 78,000 calls for service. Additionally, the LPD employs 95 civilian staff who support operations in various capacities including dispatch, records management, community outreach, grant and fiscal management, research and development, crime analysis, and managing information technology.

The LPD has maintained its commitment to community policing since the mid-1990's. During this time, civilian staff members were utilized to allow the department to deploy more sworn officers back to patrol and investigative services. Over the years, these civilian staff members have become instrumental members of this organization, with departmental expertise that assists the LPD in achieving its overall goal of making Lowell the safest city possible for those who live, work and visit the city.

Lowell, much like many cities nationwide, has been struggling financially. This has impacted the City's ability to maintain vital city services including public safety. During FY10, after cutting as much of the expense line items as possible, the LPD was still faced with a deficit that put 26 police officer positions and 18 civilian positions at-risk of being eliminated. Fortunately, the LPD was able to secure state and federal grant money to maintain all the sworn positions and 11 civilian positions. However, many of these grants will end over the next few years; therefore, it will be imperative to find other funding sources to maintain staffing levels. Therefore, the LPD will utilize these funds to partially support three Research and Development staff members and one Intelligence Analyst in the Crime Analysis and Intelligence Unit.

Research and Development Staff:

The Research and Development Unit (R&D) consists of the Director of Research and Development, a Program Manager and a Grant Writer. These individuals are tasked with obtaining and managing all state, federal, and private grant funding. In 2010, the members of the Unit secured \$1.2 million in grant funding. The R&D Unit is currently managing over \$7.7 million dollars in grants obtained in the past several years. Additionally, the R&D staff has been responsible for implementing outreach programs, managing social media initiatives, conducting strategic planning sessions, assisting with the budgeting process, researching best practices within law enforcement and producing the Annual Report.

Grant funds have allowed the LPD to implement several innovative initiatives including a hotspot policing initiative, a program to address repeat domestic violence offenders, a Smart Policing project targeting drugs and drug-related crime and a gang/youth violence prevention program; each of these programs have yielded positive, crime reducing results.

The R&D staff is also responsible for evaluating the programs implemented within the department to ensure they are meeting expectations. This information is delivered to the funding

agencies through fiscal and programmatic reports. As we continue to struggle in this economic climate, it is essential to retain these positions as they will be tasked with continuing to identify and secure funds that will positively impact the city's ability to implement high quality public safety services.

Crime Analysis and Intelligence Unit Analyst:

The LPD will also fund a portion of an Intelligence Analyst's salary. This analyst reviews, collates, analyzes and disseminates key information in support of operational, administrative and investigative department efforts. The analyst's expertise has assisted the LPD to positively impact crime by providing useful information on gang and drug issues through the City and Northeast Region. This analyst also participates in our bi-weekly Compstat meetings.