BJA FY23 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM
LOCAL SOLICITATION O-BJA-2023-171790
HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE – NEW PATROL BOAT COMPLIMENTARY FUNDING

Located in the Northwestern portion of California, Humboldt County is a rugged and beautiful tourist destination of approximately 3,600 square miles. It's an outdoor recreational paradise and contains 180 miles of coastline, 40 miles of which are easily accessible, with approximately half a million visitors coming through each year to witness its beauty. Humboldt Bay has a deep-water port and other accessible bays, coves, and coastline areas that are potential targets for use in smuggling operations. Although, smuggling attempts this far north via ocean access are not common, in our area, limited law enforcement presence along our coastline draw interest for marijuana smuggling activities. Humboldt County, located within the Emerald Triangle, is well known for its marijuana production but, methamphetamine, heroin, and fentanyl are also prevalent. The level of narcotics activity has resulted in Humboldt County being named a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) has secured a grant through the Department of Homeland Security, Port Security Grant Program to procure a new patrol boat to replace its current vessel which is at the end of its useful lifespan. At almost 20 years old, the onboard equipment and single motor lack ability to safely navigate waterways to keep up with emergent situations that require fast deployment. The purchase of this new, rapid response, rigid hull patrol boat with trailer and accessories, will be used by HCSO for law and drug enforcement programs, routine patrols, search, rescue, and recovery, situational assessments, interdiction and disruption of potential threats and illegal activities, operational coordination, crime prevention and enforcement programs, and will provide a rapid response to critical incidents throughout our

waterways. This vessel will be suited for both law enforcement and first responders. Ultimately, this vessel will aid in community violence intervention, reducing crime and violence, reducing long term port vulnerability, and strengthing our preparedness and overall resilience.

In 2021-2022 Humboldt County was hit hard with an economic downturn much like the rest of the country. That has continued into 2023. Sales tax receipts were down 25% for fiscal year 2022-2023. In the southern part of our county, sale tax receipts were down as much as 36.2%. For 2023-2024 expenditure growth is expected to continue to outpace revenue growth. The decrease in tax revenue strains operational budgets and labor costs continue to increase. Humboldt County currently has a 17 million dollar budget deficit due to the decrease in tax revenue. HCSO will be expected to reduce funds due to this deficit however, any reduction to an already depleted HCSO budget threatens efforts to reduce crime, violence, and its ability to strengthen community safety.

The new patrol boat is currently being constructed with a vendor under contract for a total purchase price of $447,194.00. Funds received through the Port Security Grant total $315,000 which includes $236,250 from the grant program and $78,750 as a match. This leaves HCSO with a $132,194 remaining balance due upon delivery scheduled for June 2024. HCSO plans to use JAG awarded funds towards the remaining balance due to compliment funds received via the Port Security grant program. JAG funds will not be used as a match.