Recovery Act: Assistance to Rural Law Enforcement to Combat Crime and Drugs

Category IV: Facilitating Rural Justice Information Sharing

Program Narrative (Attachment 2)

Statement of the Problem

The Illinois State Police (ISP) partnered with Microsoft in January 2007 to create a Best Practices and Technology Architecture for the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC). As part of the process, a study was completed on STIC's existing capabilities, with recommendations for improving the fusion center's efficiency and effectiveness. It was noted in the study that STIC currently has no formal or standardized means of managing the intake of requests, validating them, or tasking them for action and tracking them through the research, analysis, and production process to release to the requestor. Additionally, many STIC tasks appear to be ad hoc when in fact they are in many cases cyclical or can be institutionalized and standardized. Some examples are:

- Strategic assessment of threats to visiting dignitaries.
- Production of threat assessments for significant special events (e.g., State Fair, BioTech, National High School Finals Rodeo, Gubernatorial inaugurations, political conventions, sports events).
- Strategic assessment supporting the development and prioritization of ISP and other public safety strategic plans and programs.

It is also recognized that information exchange and collaboration is critical to the success of fusion centers. Currently, collaboration is done ad-hoc, mostly via e-mail, telephone, or in person.

Using technological advances, to include portal, web conferences, and virtual workspaces, STIC will develop and expand partnerships to augment the safety and security of the citizens of Illinois. The development of a "Virtual Fusion Center" will allow rural jurisdictions to access criminal justice information with little equipment or maintenance costs.

Program Design and Implementation

In response to the Best Practices and Technology Architecture study, Microsoft developed FusionX, mission-critical technology architecture for fusion centers. The implementation of the "Virtual Fusion Center" using FusionX will allow rural criminal justice and public safety jurisdictions to have greater access to information regarding criminal activity.

The technical objectives of the project are to develop an inclusive architecture that focuses on collaboration and information sharing; help criminal justice and public safety agencies rapidly deploy capability by providing guidance and sharing best practices; leverage existing investments in technology; to provide a consistent user interface across multiple applications; define integration points that both customers and partners can use to better share information; facilitate secure and reliable information exchange both internally and externally; and provide a technology roadmap to assist in planning. These objectives will greatly improve the sharing of

criminal justice information across rural law enforcement agencies by providing a technology platform that currently does not exist.

Phase I of the project will be the development of a “dashboard” for the internal process of the fusion center. This “dashboard” will serve as an intake processor, task tracker, collaborative workspace, provide situational awareness, and will display Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds. This can be customized for each user based on personal preference. Phase II will focus on expanding “dashboard” access to local law enforcement and public safety agencies, allowing for the creation of a “Virtual Fusion Center”. The following is a listing of performance measures for the project:

Phase I

1. Year One, First Quarter – Solidify delivery platform (i.e., technical production environment).
2. Year One, Second and Third Quarters – All pre-requirements complete. Commence design, development, and implementation.
3. Year One, Fourth Quarter – Begin incremental testing of the “dashboard”.
4. End of Year One – Project functional in Fusion Center.

Phase II

5. Year Two, First Quarter – Design, test, and implement remote access functionality.
6. Year Two, Second and Third Quarters – Pilot remote functionality with Chicago Fusion Center and four rural local law enforcement agencies, creating a “Virtual Fusion Center”.
7. Year Two, Fourth Quarter – Identify and correct issues discovered during Pilot Phase.

8. End of Year Two – Fully implement "Virtual Fusion Center" including local, state, and federal public safety entities.

Capabilities/Competencies

The project will be managed by the ISP Information and Technology Command. A certified Project Manager will be identified and hired for the duration of the project, as well as Technical Programmers.

The ISP already has a process in place to track expenditures separately from other state or federal funding. A separate appropriation account code is to be received in state FY10 for stimulus grant funding. Within that appropriation, separate cost center numbers will be assigned to each grant award received by the Department. These cost center numbers will be used on all drawdown deposits, purchasing documents, and grant expenditures.

Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, Sustainment, and Description of the Applicant's Plan for the Collection of the Data Required for Performance Measures

The Virtual Fusion Center Project will be coordinated by a contractual Project Manager and subject to audit by a committee comprised of representatives from the ISP Information Technology Command, Special Operations Command, Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center, and the Microsoft Corporation. Microsoft has already delivered a Proof of Concept for FusionX and has begun implementation at other fusion centers. Other funding sources will be used to sustain the program after the initial two years.

This project will greatly benefit both STIC and law enforcement agencies statewide by providing a secure collaborative environment, access to intelligence databases, and greater opportunities for intelligence-led policing which will ultimately reduce crime. STIC and rural law enforcement agencies will improve their organizational performance and personnel productivity by reducing manual processes and spending less time on tactical analysis. This is significant for rural jurisdictions, who have limited personnel and budgets.