

**BJA FY25 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program – Local
Wheeling Police Department (Fiscal Agent) and
Ohio County Sheriff’s Office (Subrecipient)**

Funding Opportunity Number: O-BJA-2025-172542

Assistance Listing Number: 16.738

Date: April 26, 2026

FY25 JAG PROJECT NARRATIVE

Project Title: *Enhancing Community Safety in Wheeling and Ohio County, West Virginia, through Coordinated Law Enforcement Initiatives.*

Applicants:

- City of Wheeling Police Department (Primary Applicant) – \$57,790
- Ohio County Sheriff’s Office (Subrecipient) – \$11,140
- **Total Project Amount: \$68,930**

ABSTRACT

The disparate jurisdictions of the City of Wheeling, West Virginia, Police Department and the Ohio County, West Virginia, Sheriff’s Office will utilize FY25 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding to enhance regional law enforcement capabilities through targeted investments in investigative technology, officer safety equipment, and advanced crime scene documentation tools.

Recent data indicates that the Wheeling area has experienced an increase in calls for service at nearly 22,000 a year into the Wheeling Police Department with 25% being mental health calls, underscoring the growing demand for modern tools and technology to support effective law enforcement response and investigations.

In response, the Wheeling Police Department has implemented a Crisis Intervention Team approach and established a dedicated Crisis Response Unit focused on de-escalation and connecting individuals to appropriate treatment and recovery services. This proactive model has positioned the department as a regional leader in behavioral health law enforcement response and has contributed to reducing repeat calls for service while improving outcomes for individuals in crisis.

The Wheeling Police Department, serving as the primary applicant and fiscal agent, will use its allocation of \$57,790 to strengthen its Investigations Division through the acquisition of advanced digital forensic software, data analysis platforms, evidence management systems, and specialized investigative equipment. These resources will enhance the department’s ability to extract and analyze digital evidence, support complex criminal investigations, and improve case development and prosecution outcomes.

The Ohio County Sheriff’s Office will utilize its allocation of \$11,140 to procure an OSCR360 High-Resolution Capture Kit and associated software. This system will allow deputies to create

interactive, 360-degree reconstructions of crime and accident scenes, significantly improving evidence documentation, investigative accuracy, and courtroom presentation.

Together, these investments will enhance interagency collaboration, improve investigative efficiency, and strengthen officer safety across the Wheeling–Ohio County region. By supporting data-driven policing and modern investigative practices, the project will directly contribute to reducing crime, increasing case clearance rates, and improving public safety outcomes for the communities served.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE

The City of Wheeling Police Department (Wheeling PD) and the Ohio County Sheriff’s Office (OCSO) operate as a certified disparate jurisdiction in West Virginia’s Northern Panhandle, working collaboratively to serve a geographically and demographically diverse population. As regional partners in public safety, both agencies are tasked with responding to increasingly complex and evolving crime trends that require modern tools, advanced technology, and coordinated enforcement strategies.

In recent years, the region has experienced ongoing challenges related to violent crime, drug trafficking, and the growing sophistication of criminal activity, particularly involving digital communications and mobile technology. At the same time, law enforcement agencies are expected to respond effectively to high-risk incidents, including active shooter situations, while maintaining a strong commitment to community-oriented policing and constitutional standards.

While recent Wheeling PD data indicates that certain categories of crime have stabilized or decreased, these trends reflect the effectiveness of current law enforcement strategies rather than a reduced need for resources. Sustaining and building upon these gains requires continued investment in technology, training, and investigative capacity. At the same time, the complexity of incidents, including those involving digital evidence and behavioral health crises, continues to increase, placing additional demands on officers and investigators.

Recent departmental data further reflects these trends, with Group A (more serious crimes) and Group B (less serious crimes) both decreasing by approximately 14%, reinforcing the effectiveness of current enforcement strategies while highlighting the importance of sustaining these efforts.

According to the Wheeling Police Department’s 2025 Annual Report, “In 2025, the Investigations Division investigated 292 cases. Assigned Cases often require specialized knowledge, resources, and attention, which is why they are escalated to investigators who have the expertise to handle complex situations such as homicides, drug cases, and financial fraud.”

These challenges have placed increased demands on both agencies’ patrol operations, investigative units, and specialized response teams. While both departments have made significant strides in improving operations and collaboration, critical gaps remain in their ability to fully respond to modern policing needs without additional investment.

For the Wheeling PD, the primary need lies in strengthening its investigative capacity through enhanced digital forensic tools and data analysis capabilities. As criminal activity increasingly involves mobile devices, digital communications, and online platforms, the department's Investigations Division must be equipped with the tools necessary to extract, analyze, and interpret complex data. Current limitations in software access, forensic hardware, and data processing capabilities hinder the department's ability to efficiently manage caseloads and support timely prosecutions.

The Ohio County Sheriff's Office faces similar challenges but has identified a critical need in the area of crime scene documentation and reconstruction. Accurate and thorough documentation of crime and accident scenes is essential not only for investigative purposes but also for successful prosecution and courtroom presentation. The OCSO currently lacks advanced imaging technology that allows for comprehensive, interactive scene reconstruction, limiting its ability to capture and preserve critical evidence in a dynamic and detailed manner.

Additionally, both agencies continue to prioritize officer safety, particularly in high-risk situations such as tactical operations and emergency response scenarios. Ensuring that officers and deputies are equipped with reliable, modern tools is essential for both effective policing and the protection of personnel and the public.

The FY25 JAG funding provides a critical opportunity for both agencies to address these gaps through targeted investments in technology and equipment. By enhancing investigative capabilities, improving evidence documentation, and strengthening overall operational readiness, this project will directly contribute to improved public safety outcomes across Wheeling and Ohio County.

2. PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

The FY25 JAG project is the result of a collaborative planning process between Wheeling PD and OCSO, grounded in data analysis, officer input, and an assessment of current operational challenges. Both agencies conduct internal evaluations to identify priority needs and ensure that requested resources align with both immediate demands and long-term strategic goals.

For Wheeling PD, the project is centered on enhancing the capabilities of the Investigations Division through the acquisition of advanced digital forensic tools, software platforms, and supporting hardware. These resources will allow investigators to more effectively extract and analyze data from mobile devices, interpret geolocation and communication data, and manage digital evidence in a secure and efficient manner. The integration of these tools into daily operations will significantly improve investigative efficiency, reduce reliance on external resources, and strengthen case development from initial investigation through prosecution.

The OCSO will focus its portion of funding on the acquisition of the OSCR360 High-Resolution Capture Kit and associated software. This technology represents a significant advancement in crime scene documentation, allowing deputies to create fully interactive, 360-degree visual reconstructions of crime scenes, accident sites, and emergency environments. These reconstructions can incorporate additional photographic and evidentiary data, providing investigators, prosecutors, and juries with a comprehensive and accurate representation of events.

Implementation for both agencies will occur immediately upon award. Procurement processes are already well-defined, allowing for the timely acquisition of all equipment and software within the first quarter of the grant period. Following procurement, both agencies will ensure that personnel receive appropriate training to maximize the effectiveness of the new tools. Because much of the requested technology builds upon existing systems and expertise, integration into current workflows is expected to be seamless.

The combined impact of these investments will extend beyond individual agency improvements. By enhancing both investigative and documentation capabilities, the project will strengthen regional collaboration, improve information sharing, and support more effective joint operations between Wheeling PD, OCSO, and partner agencies.

3. CAPABILITIES AND COMPETENCIES

Both the Wheeling PD and the OCSO bring extensive experience, strong leadership, and a demonstrated commitment to professional law enforcement practices.

Wheeling PD serves as the primary law enforcement agency for the City of Wheeling and operates with a combination of sworn officers, civilian staff, and specialized personnel, including trained investigators, a forensic scientist, and crime analysis support. The department has invested in modern infrastructure and continues to emphasize training, data-driven policing, and interagency collaboration. Its participation in national reporting systems and partnerships with regional and federal agencies further enhances its operational capacity.

In response to the growing demand in mental health calls for service, the Wheeling PD has developed significant expertise in crisis intervention and behavioral health response. With approximately 25% of all calls for service involving mental health-related incidents, the department has prioritized Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, ensuring that officers are equipped with the skills necessary to safely and effectively respond to individuals in crisis.

Wheeling PD has emerged as a regional and state leader in crisis response, emphasizing de-escalation techniques, communication strategies, and partnerships with local service providers. The department's dedicated Crisis Response Unit plays a critical role in connecting individuals to appropriate treatment and recovery services, reducing repeat calls for service, and preventing situations from escalating into more serious incidents. This proactive, service-oriented approach enhances public safety while supporting individuals in need of care rather than incarceration.

The OCSO provides comprehensive law enforcement services across a 109-square-mile jurisdiction, serving more than 41,582 residents, according to DATA USA. ([Ohio County, WV | Data USA](#)). The agency is responsible for patrol operations, court security, civil process, and specialized response functions, including tactical operations and K9 services. OCSO maintains strong working relationships with local, state, and federal partners and plays a critical role in regional public safety efforts.

Together, these agencies have a proven track record of successfully managing grant-funded projects, implementing new technology, and maintaining compliance with federal requirements.

Their established partnership as a disparate jurisdiction reflects a shared commitment to maximizing resources and improving outcomes for the communities they serve.

4. PLAN FOR COLLECTING DATA AND EVALUATION

Wheeling PD, as the fiscal agent, will oversee all aspects of data collection, performance measurement, and reporting for the FY25 JAG project. Both agencies will participate in a coordinated evaluation process designed to ensure accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement.

The evaluation will focus on measuring the effectiveness of the funded equipment and technology in achieving project goals. Data will be collected through existing systems and operational reporting mechanisms, allowing both agencies to track performance without the need for additional administrative burden.

Key areas of evaluation will include:

- The frequency and context of equipment usage in investigations and field operations
- Improvements in investigative efficiency, including reductions in evidence processing time
- Contributions to case development, clearance rates, and prosecution outcomes
- Enhancements in officer safety and operational effectiveness

Data sources will include incident reports, investigative case files, digital forensic logs, and court records. These sources will provide both quantitative and qualitative insight into how the funded resources are being utilized and the impact they are having on public safety outcomes.

Both agencies will also incorporate ongoing internal review processes, including CompStat-style analysis, to monitor trends and adjust strategies as needed. Feedback from prosecutors, community stakeholders, and law enforcement partners will further inform the evaluation process.

As a result of this project, Wheeling PD and OCSO anticipate measurable improvements in public safety outcomes, including increased case clearance rates, reduced investigative processing times, and enhanced ability to analyze and utilize digital evidence. Additionally, the deployment of less-lethal equipment and crisis response tools is expected to support de-escalation efforts, contributing to a reduction in use-of-force incidents and improved outcomes in encounters involving individuals experiencing mental health crises.

EQUIPMENT SUMMARY AND JUSTIFICATION BUDGET NARRATIVE

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$68,930

City of Wheeling Police Department (Primary Applicant) – \$57,790

Digital Forensics & Investigative Technology

1. Cellebrite / Inseyets Pro UFED Software Subscriptions

- **Cost:** \$4,400 x 3 years=\$13,200 (estimated total for subscriptions)
- **Description:**
A comprehensive digital forensic platform used to extract, decode, and analyze data from

mobile devices. This technology allows investigators to recover critical evidence such as text messages, call logs, images, and application data. It is widely used in law enforcement to support investigations involving drug trafficking, violent crime, and digital communications.

Cellebrite / Inseyets Pro PA Software Subscriptions

- **Cost:** \$4,000 x 3 years=\$12,000 (estimated total for subscriptions)

2. PenLink GeoTime / Geolocation Analysis Software (2-Year Subscription)

- **Cost:** \$2,000

- **Description:**

This software enables investigators to analyze cellular tower data, call detail records, and digital communication patterns. It provides visual mapping and timeline tools that assist in tracking suspect movements and identifying connections between individuals involved in criminal activity.

3. PMI Software (Evidence Submission Platform (3-Year Subscription)

- **Cost:** \$3,000

- **Description:**

A digital evidence management platform used to securely upload, store, and share case-related files. This system improves coordination between investigators, prosecutors, and partner agencies while maintaining chain-of-custody and data integrity.

Forensic Hardware & Data Processing Equipment

4. Digital Forensic Hardware Package

- **Cost:** \$1,329

- **Includes:**

- USB write blocker (\$405)
- Forensic write-blocking drive dock (\$512)
- Digital forensic write-blocking drive docks (\$412 total)

- **Description:**

These tools ensure that digital evidence can be extracted and analyzed without altering the original data. Write-blocking technology is critical for maintaining evidentiary integrity and ensuring that digital files remain admissible in court.

5. Oyen Digital Forensic External Hard Drives (Data Storage)

- **Cost:** \$5,000

- **Description:**

High-capacity external drives used to securely store extracted digital evidence. These devices support large case files and ensure that investigators can manage both current and future data storage needs effectively.

Field Investigation Equipment

6. Reconyx HyperFire 4K Cellular Trail Cameras (4 units)

- **Cost:** \$1,800 (\$450 x 4)

- **Description:**
Portable, high-resolution cameras used for covert surveillance and field investigations. These devices allow officers to monitor remote areas, track suspect activity, and gather photographic evidence in real time.

Specialized Response Equipment

7. Aimpoint COA Optics (21 units)

- **Cost:** \$5,544 (\$264 x 21)
- **Description:**
Compact firearm optics that improve target acquisition speed and accuracy. These optics enhance officer safety and performance in high-risk situations by allowing for quicker and more precise engagement when necessary.

8. Safariland ALS Holsters (21 units)

- **Cost:** \$2,142 (\$102 x 21)
- **Description:**
Secure retention holsters designed to safely house firearms equipped with optics. These holsters improve weapon retention, accessibility, and officer safety during routine patrol and critical incidents.

9. Rescue Phone Cellular Response Consoles (2 units)

- **Cost:** \$3,700 (\$1,800 x 2)
- **Description:**
Advanced communication tools used in crisis situations such as hostage negotiations or barricaded subjects. These consoles allow officers to safely manage communication with individuals during critical incidents, improving de-escalation efforts. These tools are particularly critical in responding to the high volume of mental health-related calls for service, where communication, de-escalation, and time are essential to achieving safe and effective resolutions.

10. Defense Technology 40MM Less Lethal Launchers (4 units)

- **Cost:** \$5,202.60 (\$1,300.65 x 4)
- **Description:**
Less-lethal weapons designed to provide officers with additional response options during high-risk encounters. These tools support de-escalation by offering alternatives to deadly force while maintaining officer and public safety.

11. 40MM Launcher Projectiles and Accessories

- **Cost:** \$2,872.40
- **Description:**
Ammunition and accessories compatible with the less-lethal launchers, enabling a range of tactical responses including crowd control, suspect compliance, and safe resolution of volatile situations.

Ohio County Sheriff's Office (Subrecipient) – \$11,140

Crime Scene Documentation & Reconstruction Technology

1. OSCR360 High-Resolution Capture Kit & Software License

- **Cost:** \$11,140 (JAG-funded portion)
- **Total Project Cost:** \$14,978 (with \$3,838 covered by county)
- **Description:**

The OSCR360 system is a 360-degree imaging platform used to create interactive, fully immersive reconstructions of crime scenes, accident scenes, and emergency environments. The system captures high-resolution images that can be integrated into a digital walkthrough, allowing investigators, prosecutors, and juries to visualize scenes with exceptional clarity.

This technology enhances:

- Crime scene documentation accuracy
- Evidence preservation
- Courtroom presentation and prosecution effectiveness
- Emergency response planning

The system also allows integration of additional evidence, such as photographs and media collected from other devices, creating a comprehensive investigative tool.