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**San José to Receive \$3.7 Million for Countywide
Public Safety Communications System**

***Federal grant will improve interoperability among local police
departments during emergencies***

San José --- The U.S. Justice Department has awarded a \$3.7 million grant to the City of San José to help local police departments install better communications systems to improve their capabilities for interoperability during terrorist attacks and other times of crisis.

The grant to San José was among \$66.5 million in grants awarded to cities across the nation by the Justice Department on Friday, September 19. San José applied for the federal grant on behalf of the cities in Santa Clara County.

“This grant will enable San José and our neighboring communities to work together to save lives and protect property of our residents,” said San José Mayor Ron Gonzales.

“Federal funding is very welcome to help our local police and fire crews from all our cities who are the first to respond to emergencies and must have reliable communications to do their job effectively.”

The grant will enhance interagency coordination that will result in faster response times and more efficient deployment of emergency personnel and equipment that can save lives when every second counts.

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The federal funds will pay for wireless same-frequency radios, wideband receivers and computers that can be added to existing radios, and software that can channel together different frequencies onto a common network. San José Police Department will be the lead agency to implement the grant.

With more than 20 police and fire agencies operating in Santa Clara County, better interoperability is an essential component of the region's capabilities.

"In addition to their traditional police, fire, and medical duties, our men and women who are first on the scene of any emergency must be prepared for hazardous materials, floods and storms, power outages, earthquakes, and terrorism that can easily cross city boundaries," said Gonzales.

California Senator Dianne Feinstein secured \$55 million of the grant funds through an amendment to the war and homeland security supplemental security appropriations bill approved by Congress in April. Another \$11.5 million came from other funds provided to the Justice Department by Congress.

"The problem of interoperable communications is truly a life or death issue, and in all too many jurisdictions, police, fire, and emergency medical services can't communicate with each other via radio when an emergency occurs," said Senator Feinstein.

"I believe that we need to give our law enforcement, fire, and emergency personnel the tools they need to respond to a possible terrorist attack effectively and safety."

About 2.5 million first responders operate in the U.S. in 18,000 law enforcement agencies, 26,000 fire departments, 6,000 rescue departments, and many other public safety agencies. These agencies have historically depended on their own radio systems, which are often incompatible with other agencies with whom they work.

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