Agency Name: Fannin County
Grant/App: 5865001 **Start Date:** 10/1/2026 **End Date:** 9/30/2027
Fund Source: DJ-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program
Project Title: Intelligence-Based Investigations Project
Status: Application - Release Review to Applicant **Fund Block:** 2025

Profile Information

Applicant Agency Name: Fannin County
Project Title: Intelligence-Based Investigations Project
Division or Unit to Administer the Project: Fannin County Sheriff's Office
Address Line 1: 2375 Silo Rd
Address Line 2:
City/State/Zip: Bonham Texas 75418-5811
Start Date: 10/1/2026
End Date: 9/30/2027

Grant Officials:
Authorized Official
Name: Newt Cunningham

Financial Official
Name: Alicia Whipple

Project Director
Name: Boston Ross

Grant Writer
Name: Boston Ross

Narrative Information

Project Abstract :

The proposed project seeks to not only expand the number and scope of Automatic License Plate Readers throughout Fannin County but also to provide vehicle mounted ALPR systems, along with an added ALPR trailer, to further increase the effective and efficient gathering of intelligence in order to improve case outcomes, such as increased suspect identification and case clearance rates.

Problem Statement :

The Fannin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) provides primary law enforcement services to approximately 36,000 residents spread across roughly 900 square miles of largely rural territory in Northeast Texas. The county includes multiple small towns, unincorporated communities, and a network of U.S. and state highways that bring significant pass-through traffic from surrounding counties and neighboring states. Over the past several years, Fannin County has continued to experience serious property and person crimes where offenders rely on vehicles, including: - Burglaries and burglaries of motor vehicles - Motor vehicle thefts and theft of vehicle parts (e.g., trailers, tools, catalytic converters) - Narcotics

trafficking and other pass-through crime using county roads as corridors - Assaults and other violent offenses where suspects flee the scene in vehicles A substantial portion of major offenses in Fannin County involve suspect vehicles—either as transportation to and from the crime scene or as primary targets. Despite proactive patrol and community-oriented policing, deputies and investigators often have limited information about those vehicles beyond partial eyewitness descriptions, incomplete video, or delayed information from external partners. This slows the identification of suspects, extends the time between offense and arrest, and reduces clearance rates compared to what FCSO believes is achievable. FCSO currently operates four fixed Flock Safety automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras and two mobile ALPR "flex" cameras. While these devices have already produced valuable investigative leads, coverage is limited to a handful of locations. Large portions of the county's main ingress/egress routes, smaller communities, and known problem areas remain "blind spots" with no ALPR coverage. Offenders quickly learn to exploit these gaps by using alternate routes or avoiding the few covered locations. Investigators routinely spend hours: - Manually reviewing locally available video, often with poor angles or lighting - Chasing partial plate information or vague vehicle descriptions - Calling neighboring agencies to see if they have relevant vehicle data Without a more comprehensive, intelligence-driven ALPR network, Fannin County lacks the real-time and historical vehicle-based intelligence needed to: - Rapidly identify and track vehicles associated with violent crime, narcotics trafficking, burglaries, and auto theft - Detect stolen and wanted vehicles as they enter or travel through the county - Share timely, actionable vehicle intelligence with neighboring jurisdictions An expanded, county-wide ALPR network is necessary to close these gaps, improve investigative efficiency, enhance officer safety, and reduce vehicle-enabled crime in Fannin County.

Supporting Data :

Currently the Fannin County Sheriffs Office has a "fleet" of 4 fixed ALPR cameras and two mobile ALPR cameras. While they have yielded useful results in prior investigations (suggesting the effectiveness of the technology), their distribution throughout the county and missing several main ingress/egress/through-routes leaves many blind spots for investigators when working a variety of types of cases. Additionally, depending on offense type and other variables, the clearance rates for closure/closure by arrests for property offenses for offenses in Fannin County stands at approximately 13%, leaving much room for improvement at clearance rates related to property crimes and violent crimes alike. Additionally, ALPR cameras are extremely useful in identifying suspects and suspect vehicles associated with narcotics trafficking, which is a major issue in Fannin County, as established by the Fannin County narcotics working group. Additionally, there are, at minimum, 8 major highways within Fannin County, with only half of those major thoroughfares begin covered by an ALPR camera currently and that is only at a single point on each roadway, easily allowing individuals to "miss" the camera, either intentionally or unintentionally, taking alternative routes which would likely be covered with additional ALPR cameras.

Project Approach & Activities:

Fannin County, through the Fannin County Sheriff's Office, seeks funding under the Criminal Justice Grant Program – JAG to expand its automated license plate recognition (ALPR) network utilizing multiple strategies/approaches. This project is a Law Enforcement initiative that directly supports the Program's emphasis on intelligence-based investigations and community policing programs. The project will build on the county's existing ALPR footprint by adding fixed cameras, vehicle mounted cameras and, if funded, a mobile ALPR speed trailers at key locations throughout the county. The result will be an intelligence-driven, multi-faceted county-wide ALPR network that supports both real-time interdiction and follow-up investigations. 1. Deployment of Additional Fixed ALPR Cameras FCSO will deploy

four (4) additional fixed Flock Safety ALPR cameras at strategic locations across Fannin County, including: - Major entry and exit points into the county - High-crime and high-traffic corridors identified through analysis of calls for service, offense reports, and crash data - Roadways serving smaller towns and unincorporated areas that currently lack technology coverage Combined with the existing four fixed cameras, this expansion will create a meaningful county-wide ALPR "net" that captures vehicles entering, leaving, and moving within Fannin County, further leveraged by equipping three FCSO vehicles with ALPR systems to capture data at a variety of additional locations through day to day operations. Each camera will capture: - License plate characters - Vehicle make, model, color, and type - Other non-biometric vehicle characteristics These data points will support both real-time alerts and historical investigative searches. 2. Mobile ALPR Speed Trailer Coverage Subject to final award and budget approval, FCSO intends to acquire and deploy one (1) Motorola/Vigilant mobile speed radar trailer equipped with ALPR technology. This unit will: - Provide visible traffic-calming presence in neighborhoods, school zones, and high-risk corridors - Capture ALPR data in locations where permanent infrastructure is not feasible or where crime locations shift over time - Support short-term operations in response to emerging crime trends, special events, and targeted enforcement priorities The mobile unit will be rotated across the county based on data-driven deployment plans, citizen complaints, and operational priorities. 3. Integration Into Investigative and Patrol Workflows FCSO will fully integrate ALPR technology into day-to-day operations: - Provide secure Flock system access to investigators, patrol supervisors, and designated patrol deputies - Incorporate ALPR queries and hit notifications into written standard operating procedures (SOPs) for: - Robberies and aggravated assaults - Burglaries of buildings and motor vehicles - Motor vehicle theft and theft of vehicle parts - Narcotics and organized retail/property crime investigations - Use historical ALPR data to: - Identify suspect vehicle patterns, travel routes, and associates - Link related cases across time and geography - Support long-term investigations and task force operations Real-time hotlists will be configured for stolen vehicles, wanted persons, and vehicles associated with active FCSO cases, allowing deputies to receive instant alerts when those vehicles are detected. 4. Regional Collaboration and Data Sharing Because Flock Safety and Motorola/Vigilant operate separate and distinct regional and national ALPR networks, FCSO will: - Enable data-sharing with neighboring agencies that also utilize compatible ALPR systems - Use ALPR data to support multi-jurisdictional investigations, task forces, and regional crime initiatives - Share relevant hits and case information with partner agencies when vehicles of interest cross jurisdictional boundaries This regional approach directly supports the Criminal Justice Grant Program's goal of improving the criminal justice system by enabling more coordinated, data-driven responses to mobile offenders. 5. Training, Policy, and Privacy Safeguards To ensure appropriate and accountable use of ALPR technology, FCSO will: - Train at least 20 sworn personnel (patrol deputies, investigators, and supervisors) on: - ALPR system capabilities and limitations - Investigative techniques using ALPR data - Hit verification, documentation, and case supplementation - Applicable policy, legal considerations, and privacy safeguards - Adopt and/or update a written ALPR policy that addresses: - Authorized uses and prohibited uses of ALPR data - Data retention and automatic deletion timelines - Role-based access controls and audit logging - Supervisory review and annual policy review - Conduct periodic audits of ALPR usage and access logs to ensure compliance with policy, state law, and community expectations This combination of technology, training, and policy will ensure that ALPR is used responsibly and transparently.

Capacity & Capabilities:

The Fannin County Sheriffs Office employs approximately 25 sworn law enforcement officers who engage in all facets of law enforcement for the citizens of Fannin County ranging from community policing efforts, patrol efforts and investigations. Sheriff Cody Shook has almost a decade of law enforcement experience and has previously overseen successful projects

involving grant funds from a variety of sources. Additionally, the grant writer/Project Manager, Boston Ross is the Sergeant over the Criminal Investigations Division, holds a Doctorate of Education and has also previously successfully managed and completed projects funded by grant funds. Additionally, the Fannin County Auditors Office, lead by Ms. Alicia Whipple, has been regularly and repeatedly found to engage in fiscal operations which are in conformity with best practices and standard accounting practices.

Performance Management :

Goal 1: Increase Clearance Rates for Vehicle-Enabled Crimes Objective 1.1 Increase the clearance rate for auto theft and burglary of motor vehicle (BMV) cases by 15% during the 12-month project period compared to the prior 12 months. Objective 1.2 Increase the number of felony investigations in which ALPR data provides a documented investigative lead by at least 25 cases during the project period. Performance Measures - Number of Flock ALPR-assisted investigative leads documented in case reports and supplements - Number of arrests in which ALPR data materially contributed to probable cause or identification of a suspect vehicle - Change in clearance rates for auto theft and BMV compared to the baseline year _____ Goal 2: Strengthen Intelligence-Based Policing Capacity Objective 2.1 Train at least 20 sworn personnel (deputies, investigators, supervisors) in the effective and appropriate use of ALPR technology within the first six months of the project period. Objective 2.2 Increase the identification of a suspect vehicle investigations using ALPR by 30% by the end of the project period, compared to pre-deployment cases. Performance Measures - Number of personnel trained, documented via sign-in sheets, rosters, and training records - Average hours/days from incident to suspect vehicle identification in sampled cases before vs. after deployment - Number of cases where investigators document ALPR as a contributing factor in establishing leads or probable cause _____ Goal 3: Enhance Regional Collaboration and Community Safety Objective 3.1 Establish or strengthen ALPR data-sharing with at least ten (10) neighboring agencies using Flock or compatible systems during the project period. Objective 3.2 Document at least 10 multi-jurisdictional cases during the project period where shared ALPR data contributed to an arrest, recovery, or significant investigative lead. Performance Measures - Number of formal or informal data-sharing agreements or MOUs referencing ALPR - Number of documented multi-jurisdictional cases where FCSO used ALPR data from another jurisdiction, or provided ALPR data that aided a partner agency - Qualitative case summaries illustrating regional impact (e.g., stolen vehicles recovered, wanted suspects apprehended, guns seized)

Target Group :

This project will serve the entire jurisdiction of the Fannin County Sheriff's Office, including: - Incorporated towns and unincorporated communities throughout Fannin County - Rural areas, county roads, and major thoroughfares that currently lack technology coverage - Neighborhoods, business districts, and corridors with higher rates of property and person crime The primary beneficiaries include: - Residents, who will benefit from reduced crime, quicker case resolutions, and increased traffic safety - Local businesses, which often suffer repeat thefts, burglaries, and property damage - Visitors and travelers passing through Fannin County on major roadways By improving the Sheriff's Office's ability to detect, investigate, and deter vehicle-enabled crime, the project will enhance safety and quality of life across the county and beyond due to the cooperative efforts enabled by a larger camera network with other law enforcement agencies thereby also benefiting communities statewide and nationwide.

Evidence-Based Practices:

Automated License Plate Readers or Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology has been in use for approximately 50 years, having first been developed an an anti-terrorism technology in the United Kingdom. Since then, the technological capabilities and potential uses for ALPR data in law enforcement have only grown exponentially. For example, data captured as part of a broader ALPR system can be used to locate stolen vehicles, establish patterns of travel for suspects, locate missing or wanted individuals, amongst a variety of other uses. Simply put ALPR systems are an exponential force multiplier and have been used successfully in thousands of cases nationwide. Studies, such as that by Shjarback and Sarkos (2025), Snow and Charpentier (2024) and Gierlack, et al. (2014) have found that implementation and/or expansion of ALPR systems improves clearance rates in property and persons crimes alike, while also acting as a force multiplier for the identification of stolen vehicles, wanted/missing persons and the establishment of patterns of life have been shown to be useful in a variety of investigations. More specifically, implementation of ALPR technology has been show to increase clearances rates by approximately 9% when investigations are assisted by ALPR data. ALPR systems have also shown to not only be a force multiplier and intelligence-led option, they have also been shown to be more accurate, fast and more efficient than humans in scanning license plates and discovering stolen motor vehicles ((Cohen et al., 2007; Ohio State Highway Patrol, 2005; Ozer, 2010; Potts, 2018; Taylor et al., 2012). Additionally, based on the effectiveness of ALPR cameras generally and based on personal/professional experience by this grant writer and anecdotal evidence from investigators around the region, mobile ALPR systems, like the trailer and vehicle installed options are even better for gathering real time data from areas where it may not otherwise captured by the fixed location cameras. Cohen, I. M., Plecas, D., & McCormick, A. V. (2007). A report on the utility of the automated license plate recognition system in British Columbia. School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University College of the Fraser Valley. Gierlack et al. (2014). License Plate Readers for Law Enforcement. RAND Corporation-Safety and Justice Program Ohio State Highway Patrol. (2005). Automatic plate reader technology. Planning Services Section, Research and Development Unit. Ozer, M. (2010). Assessing the effectiveness of the cincinnati police department's automatic license plate reader system within the framework of intelligence-led policing and crime prevention theory. Doctoral dissertation. University of Cincinnati. Potts, J. (2018, March). Assessing the benefits of automated license plate readers. The Police Chief, 85(3), 14–15. Shjarback, J. A., & Sarkos, J. A. (2025). An Evaluation of a Major Expansion in Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Technology. Justice Evaluation Journal, 8(2), 225–242. https://doi.org/10.1080/24751979.2025.2473363 Snow, A., & Charpentier, C. (2024). Flock Safety Technologies in Law Enforcement: An Initial Evaluation of Effectiveness in Aiding Police in Real-World Crime Clearance. Taylor, B., Koper, C. S., & Woods, D. (2012). Combating vehicle theft in Arizona: A randomized experiment with license plate recognition technology. Criminal Justice Review, 37(1), 24–50.

Project Activities Information

Introduction

This section contains questions about your project. It is very important for applicants to review their funding announcement for guidance on how to fill out this section. Unless otherwise specified, answers should be about the EXPECTED activities to occur during the project period.

Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Crime Prevention	20.00	Utilize funded ALPR system to effectively reduce or deter criminals from committing offenses within Fannin County
Law Enforcement	60.00	Utilize funded ALPR system as an investigative tool and force multiplier related to a variety of crimes, including violent crimes and organized crimes, thereby ensuring a complete and thorough investigation is conducted and adequate evidence collected
Prosecution	20.00	Utilize the data collected and analyzed by the ALPR system to improve the prosecution of serious crimes, violent crimes and any other crimes where the data is applicable and valuable through its utilization as a form of evidence in criminal proceedings

Measures Information

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Casework, non-licensed counseling, individual advocacy, or other support: Hours delivered	0
Casework, non-licensed counseling, individual advocacy, or other support: Individuals receiving	0
Equipment or technology: Individuals/Operators equipped	3
General Law Enforcement or Public Safety: Arrests resulting from grant	0
Instruction and Support for Pro-social, Educational, Vocational, or Employment skills: Hours delivered	0
Instruction and Support for Pro-social, Educational, Vocational, or Employment skills: Individuals receiving	0

Targeted Investigation: Criminal cases resulting in arrest	0
Targeted Investigation: Grant-funded investigations carried out by the unit/division	0
Targeted Prosecution: Criminal cases resulting in conviction/deferred adjudication.	0
Targeted Prosecution: Grant-funded prosecutions carried out by the unit/division.	0
Training or professional development: Individuals provided	20
Training or professional development: Individuals received	0
Training, professional development, or technical assistance: Hours provided	0
Training, professional development, or technical assistance: Hours received	0

Custom Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	**TARGET LEVEL**
Increase in auto theft/BMV case clearance rate (%)	15
Increase number of ALPR data-driven cases by	25
Increase in rate of identification of suspect vehicle (%)	30
Agencies with which ALPR data is shared for investigative purposes	10
Multijurisdictional cases where ALPR data contributed to an arrest/recovery/significant lead	10

Budget Details Information

Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/ %
Equipment	License Plate Reader	4 Flock Fixed Automatic License Plate Readers ($3,000 each)	$12,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$12,000.00	4
Equipment	License Plate Reader	3 vehicle-based/affixed Motorola/Vigilant ALPR systems ($13,500/system)	$40,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$40,500.00	3
Equipment	License Plate Reader	mobile/roadside ALPR trailer (Motorola/Vigilant-based)	$37,225.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$37,225.00	1
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Specialized Computer Software ($5,000 or less per unit)	License/access costs for Motorola/Vigilant platform	$2,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$2,500.00	0

Source of Match Information

Detail Source of Match/GPI:

DESCRIPTION	MATCH TYPE	AMOUNT

Summary Source of Match/GPI:

Total Report	Cash Match	In Kind	GPI Federal Share	GPI State Share
$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00

Budget Summary Information

Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
Equipment	$89,725.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$89,725.00
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	$2,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$2,500.00

Budget Grand Total Information:

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
$92,225.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$92,225.00