

2017-H2526-TX-DJ
Program Abstract (Attachment I)

Hidalgo County is 1,588 square miles and is located at the south most tip of the state of Texas. Its southern border covers seventy-eight miles of Texas/Mexico border along the Rio Grande River. As per most recent census estimates, Hidalgo County reflects a population of slightly over 774,769.

As a result of its proximity to the border, Hidalgo County experiences a high volume of criminal activity that is stemmed by various factors including a high unemployment rate, economically disadvantaged households, below national average education levels, illegal immigrant entries, drug and human trafficking, gangs, domestic and/or family violence, among others.

Deputies conduct traffic stops and respond to reported activity on a daily basis which exposes them to pistol, rifle and other firearms with armor piercing fire. In other cases, deputies respond to a residence with a vehicle present that have fired on deputies. These instances have been documented in other counties in the State of Texas jurisdiction.

With the increase in human trafficking, deputies are vulnerable as gangs acquire illegal weapons to protect their business interests.

Since the JAG Program allows a recipient to purchase Body Armor such as ballistic-resistant and stab-resistant body Hidalgo County has decided to utilize the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to increase the safety and security of the general public, assist with current border initiatives/surveillance and protect our deputies.

