

2017-H2526-TX-DJ
Program Narrative (Attachment II)

At any time, law enforcement officers may be required to respond to an incident involving an “active shooter.” An active shooter is an armed person who is using deadly physical force on others and is continuing to do so while having unrestricted access to additional victims. The Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Office is uniquely positioned on the international border between the US and Mexico, and is subject to both domestic and international threats. To remain safe and effective, law enforcement officers need the highest level of personal protection that is readily available. Unfortunately soft body armor issued to officers and worn discretely with their clothing provides limited or no protection from many firearms. Soft body armor is not expected to prevent the penetration of rifle rounds.

Stand Alone Ballistic plates Level III rated vests can stop many rifle rounds. Although their weight and inflexibility make these ballistic plates and carriers impractical for daily wear, they may be invaluable during an active shooter incident. When facing the threat of an active shooter, officers can upgrade their level of firearm protection by putting on, over their clothing, a carrier with a set of ballistic plates. To improve officer safety, the County of Hidalgo Sheriff’s Department has determined that ballistic plates and carriers should be readily available in the vehicles of officers who respond to active shooter incidents. When an officer enters a hazardous situation, being equipped with the appropriate gear can help to save his or her life.

The Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Department intends to utilize JAG funding to purchase Stand Alone Ballistic plates Level III rated vests standard of protection. To assist in the data collection efforts, the Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Department will maintain an accurate record of all equipment expenditures purchased tracked via generally accepted accounting principles observed in Hidalgo County. They will also track ballistic vest details (serial numbers, officer assignment, and officer participation in relevant training). In addition, Sheriff’s Department will also track any problems encountered, as well as any realized high-risk callout response efficiencies. They will also report any BJA required specific performance data.

