



# Watertown Police Department News Release

Type of Incident	Date	Time
<b>Watertown PD Receives Grant Funding</b>	<b>09/15/09</b>	<b>12:30PM</b>
<p><b>A telephone call from Senator Tim Johnson’s office in Washington, D.C has created a flurry of excitement this morning at the Watertown Police Department. That’s because the Watertown Police Department received notification that it has been awarded grant funding in the amount of \$1,568,993.00. This funding was made possible through a competitive grant application funded by the U.S Department of Justice entitled FY09 Recovery Act Rural Law Enforcement Assistance: Combating Rural Crime.</b></p> <p><b>The Assistance to Rural Law Enforcement to Combat Crime and Drugs Program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, helps rural states and rural areas prevent and combat crime, especially drug related crime, and provides for national support efforts, including training and technical assistance programs strategically targeted to address rural needs.</b></p> <p><b>The Northeast South Dakota Rural Information Exchange Model (RIEM) is a grassroots initiative through a coalition of fifteen rural law enforcement agencies seeking an affordable information sharing solution to combat crime and drugs. This innovative project will provide an affordable, scalable, multi-jurisdictional automated field reporting records management system, as well as improved Computer Aided Dispatching and mapping features.</b></p> <p><b>The RIEM budget allows for the hiring of three new communications officers at the Watertown Police communications center as well as one new Police Information Systems Technician. The budget will provide for \$360,135.00 to cover 100% of salaries and benefits for a period of two years for the newly hired personnel. The budget will provide an additional \$1,156,598.00 to purchase equipment for the Watertown Communications center as well as to provide forty five (45) laptops to law enforcement officers in the five county area who are currently receiving services through the Watertown Communications Center. These counties include Codington, Hamlin, Day, Grant and Roberts. The remainder of the RIEM budget will provide for consulting as well as required training and travel expenses related to the program.</b></p> <p><b>This news is especially exciting for Captain Ryan Remmers of the Watertown Police Department who has been patiently awaiting a response since the submittal deadline in April of this year. Captain Remmers authored the grant which was reviewed by</b></p>		

**consultants Mark Lanier, Ph.D and Mike Reynolds, Ph.D of the University of Central Florida. South Dakota Senator Tim Johnson also wrote a letter of support for the RIEM project.**

**For Further Information Contact: Captain Ryan Remmers**

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