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BRACKEN COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Howard W. Niemeier, Sheriff

PRESS RELEASE

BRACKEN COUNTY RECEIVES 2011 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

Governor Steve Beshear announced last Wednesday that Bracken County has been awarded the 2011 Homeland Security Grant that Sheriff Howard W. Niemeier applied for to address equipment for the Bracken County Dispatch Center and Bracken County Surveyor. Bracken County will receive \$79,000 to be used to purchase a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) program for the dispatch center and to update the County Surveyor mapping program.

On Wednesday November 9, 2011 the Bracken County Fiscal Court voted to accept this grant. The equipment for the 911 center will have to be bid out for purchase. A timeline has been set up by the Sheriff for the execution and management of this grant. Sheriff Niemeier advises that this grant will increase the safety to all emergency responders in the County and it brings our dispatch center into the 21st Century with computer technology that most dispatch centers have as standard equipment. This is just another step to improving the service that the County provides to the Citizens.

The CAD system will give dispatch the capability of tracking all calls for service given out by dispatchers and also recording all calls reported by those in the field to dispatch. Currently the dispatch center only has a hand written log of calls that are dispatched to emergency responders. This system will also give emergency responders the capability of getting critical information at the click of a computer key, instead of weeding through old hand written records. The system also provides red flags that will alert dispatchers with critical information for emergency responders in the field. This may include weapons involved for law enforcement personnel, medical risks for EMS personnel, and chemicals housed in buildings for fire personnel, etc.

This program benefits all of the emergency responders in the County and gives them the capability of running reports of activities associated with their agency. It will help in obtaining stats to be used to complete future grant applications. Sheriff Niemeier advises that he will continue to seek out Grants for the County where they can be used. Any free money we can get just gives us the capability of putting the County's money to better use for other areas where it is needed.

As your Sheriff I am dedicated to improving the safety and working conditions of our personnel as well as improving the safety of our citizens who live and work in the County. I will continue to work on programs to make this a safer County to live, work and play.