



## Federal earmark boosts police gear for city, county

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York County's version of a SWAT team will get some new, cutting-edge communications equipment courtesy of a \$300,000 federal earmark.

The York County Quick Response Team was one of two local law enforcement projects supported by earmarks included in the massive federal "omnibus" spending bill signed into law last week.

Included were \$200,000 for York City's ShotSpotter gunshot detection system and \$300,000 for new communications equipment the QRT can use when responding to incidents.

The new equipment will allow incident commanders and field personnel to share information, such as building blueprints, pictures of suspects or live video feeds from the city's ShotSpotter system. It will also allow QRT members to identify the location of fellow team members during a crisis.

**First:** The QRT unit is slated to be the first law enforcement agency in the country to use the system, called DragonForce, in real-life situations, said Michael Mitkus, marketing and sales manager for Drakontas, its producer. It has been tested elsewhere.

The QRT had hoped to get \$3.2 million toward the project, said Sgt. Craig Losty, its commander. But the \$300,000 should get the effort off the ground by allowing the team to buy some of the initial equipment it needs to implement the new system on a limited basis.

Losty said the QRT is happy to get any money.

"Obviously with the funding sources drying up, it was a flip of a coin," he said.

Because the money was just approved, Losty isn't sure when the QRT will get the equipment or when its members might be able to start putting it to use.

**ShotSpotter:** The city isn't yet sure how it can use \$200,000 it received for the ShotSpotter system, said York City Police Commissioner Mark Whitman.

The administration is hoping to use the money to pay down the cost of the system, which the city is using under a lease-purchase agreement.

If that's not possible, Whitman said, the city would likely use the money toward new cameras that home in on areas where gunshots are detected.

"We want to get what we have paid for before we start adding on," he said.

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