Small Grants Available from U.S. Fire Administration for Arson Investigation

William Gary Head
Municipal Technical Advisory Service

Follow this and additional works at: http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_mtastech

Part of the Public Administration Commons

The MTAS publications provided on this website are archival documents intended for informational purposes only and should not be considered as authoritative. The content contained in these publications may be outdated, and the laws referenced therein may have changed or may not be applicable to your city or circumstances. For current information, please visit the MTAS website at: mtas.tennessee.edu.

Recommended Citation
http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_mtastech/173

This Bulletin is brought to you for free and open access by the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) at Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in MTAS Publications: Technical Bulletins by an authorized administrator of Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact trace@utk.edu.
SMALL GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM
U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION FOR
ARSON INVESTIGATION

By Wm. Gary Head, MTAS Management Consultant

The U.S. Fire Administration, which is under the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has been offering seed money to combat the crime of arson.

A major emphasis has been on the Arson Information Management Computer System (AIMS). The cities of Knoxville, TN, and Rochester, NY, were selected to demonstrate the program.

An Anti-Arson Resource and Action Guide was developed by Public Technology, Inc., through a grant from Aetna Life & Casualty Company. Information on this guide can be obtained by contacting the MTAS library or:

Ms. Ellen J. Albright, Arson Program Director
Public Technology, Inc.
1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 626-2400

The Knoxville experience offers a model for other cities (or combination of smaller cities) to pursue. The methodology is fairly simple:

1. Establish a task force.
2. Organize the task force into sub-committees.
3. Staff the task force with trained fire/police personnel.
4. Install AIMS to track fires and locate patterns.
5. Follow through with prosecution, taxation, and building codes.

The establishment of the program in Knoxville has resulted in a 300 per cent increase in arrests for the crime of arson, and a 10 per cent decrease in suspected arson cases. For information on Knoxville's experience, contact:

Dr. David J. Icove, Coordinator
Knoxville Arson Task Force
Department of Public Safety
800 East Church Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37915
Phone: (615) 521-1200, Ext. 339

(over)
Cities interested in pursuing the grant money for fire departments may contact:

U. S. Fire Administration
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, DC  20472

It should be emphasized, once again, that the program can work as well for a group of smaller cities as for a large city.