

North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety

Michael F. Easley, Governor

Bryan E. Beatty, Secretary

April 13, 2004

The Honorable Marc Basnight President Pro-Tempore North Carolina Senate Legislative Building, Room 2007 Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

The Honorable James B. Black Speaker of the House North Carolina House of Representatives State Legislative Building, Room 2304 Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

The Honorable Richard T. Morgan Speaker of the House North Carolina House of Representatives State Legislative Office Building, Suite 301 Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Senator Basnight, Speaker Black, and Speaker Morgan:

Pursuant to Section 23.1 of the Current Operations Appropriations Act of 2001, the State Highway Patrol reports its intent to use \$670,000 in Federal Seizure funds for the following projects:

The Highway Patrol intends to use \$235,000 towards the purchase of fifty (50) mobile data computers (MDCs) to replace fifty (50) MDCs currently in use. The Highway Patrol's strategic plan calls for the replacement of 300 mobile data computers. Several MDCs currently in use are over seven (7) years old and are in need of replacement.

The Highway Patrol wishes to use \$215,000 to purchase fifty (50) 800 MHz radios. The new radios will be installed in Patrol cars in Wake County (Troop C, District 3) in addition to their low band radio system to facilitate complete fixed radio interoperability with law enforcement agencies in the surrounding area. Troopers will retain their 800 MHz handheld walkie-talkie units for assignments or incidents which require Troopers to be outside and away from their Patrol vehicles.

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Additionally, the Highway Patrol intends to purchase fifty (50) low band radio repeaters at a total cost of \$135,000. The repeaters will replace aging equipment currently in use throughout the state and enable Troopers to communicate reliably with our communications centers.

The Highway Patrol also intends to purchase fifty (50) radio consoles for installation in Patrol cars at a total cost of \$11,500. Radio consoles firmly mount Patrol radio equipment to prevent shifting and damage of costly radio equipment.

The Highway Patrol intends to use \$35,000 towards the purchase of an overhead bridge crane for use by the Aviation Unit. Currently, repairs involving the removal and installation of heavy components are accomplished using an antiquated military surplus crane which has become both unsafe and dangerous over the past several years. The new crane will help reduce possible injuries to aviation mechanics and pilots and expedite repairs involving heavy aircraft parts.

The Highway Patrol wishes to purchase five (5) Golden Eagle Radars for the Motor Unit. The new radars will replace five (5) Stalker Radar units currently used by the Motor Unit. The Golden Eagle Radar has dual antenna capabilities unlike the Stalker Radar Unit.

Finally, the Highway Patrol intends to use \$30,000 toward the purchase of a communications voter to improve communications in Troop A Districts 6, 7, and 8. The communications voter is an electronic device that selects the strongest audio signal from multiple towers thereby strengthening the signal being transmitted. The communications voter will improve telecommunications in Craven, Pamlico, Lenoir, Jones, and Carteret counties.

The cost of these requests totals \$670,000. As of March 29, 2004, the fund balance for the Highway Patrol's Federal Forfeiture Funds (Funds 2420 and 2430) was \$1,225,341. Additionally, as of March 29, 2004, the fund balance for the Highway Patrol's State Revenue Controlled Substance Fund (Fund 2425) was \$56,620. Therefore, the fund balance for all three (3) funds totals \$1,281,961. If all of these requests are approved, the new balance among these funds will equal \$611,961.

Sincerely,

Bryan E. Beatty Secretary

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BEB:jci

cc: Colonel R. W. Holden
Mr. Bennie Aiken, Controller