



ROY COOPER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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ROBIN P. PENDERGRAFT
DIRECTOR

November 7, 2006

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
Legislative Building, Room 2304
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

Dear Senator Basnight, Speaker Black, and Members of the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations:

As you may know, the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) participates in the Equitable Sharing of Federally Forfeited Property Program with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Treasury. The SBI is grateful for the availability of federal forfeiture funds and property to enhance our law enforcement capabilities. We are attempting to maximize the purchasing power of these federal forfeiture funds by using them as matching funds for grant programs, and equipment. Your support of these important efforts is greatly appreciated.

Pursuant to applicable law, the SBI reports its intent to use federal forfeiture funds for the following purposes:

ITEM REQUESTED	AMOUNT
<u>Night Vision Binoculars:</u> Approximately 32 sets of night vision binoculars would be purchased to enhance surveillance activities that are a critical component of drug investigations.	\$12,768
<u>Surveillance Photography Equipment:</u> Approximately 30 advanced digital cameras are needed to facilitate documentation of surveillance activities.	\$30,000



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<u>Protective Search Gloves:</u> Issuance of this equipment to all sworn personnel will provide protection against injuries that could be incurred while searching both persons and places.	\$10,000
<u>Video Recording Equipment:</u> 9 Wireless Camera/Transmitter units would be purchased for use in undercover operations to enhance officer safety and collection of court admissible evidence.	\$59,355
<u>Drug Chemistry Equipment & Supplies:</u> In order to expedite the processing of drug chemistry related evidence submitted to the crime lab, additional scientific equipment and supplies are needed. Equipment needs include an infrared spectrometer, gas chromatography detector, electronic balances, stereoscopes and related drug analysis systems.	\$200,000
<u>Crime Scene Photography Equipment:</u> Approximately 34 high capacity compact flash memory cards are needed for the Crime Scene Search Specialists to capture larger image files needed for the capture of comparison evidence photographs. Additionally, approximately 8 professional grade camera tripods are needed to facilitate the capture of 1:1 comparison photography involving fingerprints, footwear impressions, bite marks and tire track impressions.	\$4,040
<u>Utility Clothing with SBI Markings:</u> SBI personnel routinely work in environments that require clothing with identification markings to provide clear identification as law enforcement.	\$8,750
<u>Northwestern District Office Telephone System:</u> The current telephone system is in very poor condition and does not adequately meet the current demands. Additional lines and upgraded features are needed to ensure prompt return of service calls.	\$30,000
<u>CD/DVD Burner:</u> This equipment will allow for a secure transfer of audio and video evidence from surveillance and camera equipment in order to ensure the integrity of evidence and its subsequent admissibility.	\$10,620
<u>Arson/Crime Scene Equipment and Training Materials:</u> Both Arson and Crime Scene Search Personnel are routinely exposed to harsh environments conducting crime scene investigations. Fire-retardant coveralls for the arson agents and cotton coveralls for the crime scene search specialists would provide increased safety and protection of the employees. Arson agents routinely use flashlights in harsh environments associated with fire scenes. These small, high visibility, impact resistant lights will be issued to all arson agents with additional units being placed on arson response vehicles. A total of approximately 24 light units will be purchased. Approximately 20 copies of advanced training materials would be purchased for all arson agents, along with a copy for both the Training Section and the Trace Evidence Section. Three advanced digital SLR cameras with memory cards and cases are needed for newly dedicated arson positions. Arson crime scene photography is detail oriented which requires advanced photography equipment.	\$23,255

<u>Microfilm Reader/Printer:</u> The volume of cases filed on microfilm continues to increase which results in a corresponding increase in requests to print and disseminate copies. The existing Microfilm Reader/Printer is outdated and extremely inefficient.	\$12,794
<u>Copier:</u> This copier is needed for the Clandestine Laboratory Response Unit which currently does not have a working copier.	\$8,000
<u>GPS Equipment:</u> Approximately 15 GPS units needed for Special Operations Division personnel to respond to requests for specialized and technical assistance from SBI Field Division and local and state law enforcement agencies. These units would be deployed in the Intelligence & Technical Services, Special Response Team, and other specialized groups within this Division of the SBI.	\$10,000
<u>LCD Projectors:</u> Five LCD Projectors for the Financial Crimes Unit, Diversion & Environmental Crimes Unit, and the Intelligence & Technical Services Unit. These are needed to use for the numerous presentations that these units make throughout the state.	\$5,000
<u>Cargo Trailer & Generator:</u> This equipment would be used by the Hazardous Devices Unit to transport safety equipment and provide power where electrical current is not available or readily accessible.	\$9,500
<u>Safety Clothing & Equipment for Environmental Investigators and Special Response Team:</u> Safety clothing and equipment and appropriate storage containers for agents that are assigned to conduct environmental investigations. This will enhance the safety of personnel. Nomex flight suits that are fire retardant along with gloves, goggles, and kneepads for the SBI Special Response Team. These items are needed for the safety of members of this statewide response team and will serve as replacement of existing 10+ year old equipment as well as equipping new members who currently lack some of the equipment.	\$20,000
<u>Digital Tape Recorders & Flatbed Scanners:</u> This equipment will be utilized for electronic submission of reports and documents to the SBI Case Records Management Section. This equipment will also allow agents to transmit copies of search warrants and raid plans electronically through secure files. This equipment will be issued to agents within the Financial Crimes Unit, Intelligence & Technical Services Section, and the Diversion and Environment Crimes Unit.	\$4,000
<u>Avionics Headsets:</u> A total of 11 Avionic Headsets are needed for use in Bureau aircraft to facilitate communications between the pilots and passengers.	\$10,000
<u>GARMIN 496 GPS MAP:</u> This is avionic GPS and mapping equipment for flight safety for SBI Aircraft. These units include the Jeppesen, Obstacle, Safe Taxi, and Weather service enhancements.	\$16,000
GRAND TOTAL:	\$484,082

As of November 6, 2006, the SBI Federal Forfeiture Fund had an unencumbered balance of \$562,533. The SBI reports its intent to commit \$484,082 leaving a balance of \$78,451 in our asset forfeiture account.

In addition to our ability to use federal forfeiture funds, the program allows us to take possession of certain property. In connection with our participation in this program, we will receive ownership of a 2002 sport utility vehicle. I am reporting to you that the SBI proposes to use this federally forfeited asset in furtherance of our investigative and prosecutorial activities in the area of criminal enforcement.

Sincerely,

Robin P. Pendergraft
Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'WEW', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William E. Weis
Assistant Director
Administrative Service Division