



North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety

Michael F. Easley, Governor

Bryan E. Beatty, Secretary

September 11, 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
State Legislative Building, Room 2304
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

Dear Senator Basnight and Speaker Black:

Pursuant to Section 15.1(a) of the Current Operations and Capital Improvements Appropriations Act of 2005, the State Highway Patrol reports its intent to use \$431,744.00 in Federal Seizure funds for the following five projects. Our agency wishes to use some of this money to fund the cash match required by two separate grants, which our agency has received since 1 July 2006. The remaining three projects described in this request will fund the entire cost of programs that are not grant-funded. All five projects will help to make sure State Troopers in North Carolina have reliable programs and equipment to call upon in the field, as they continue to promote safe motoring throughout our great state.

The first project will make it possible for our agency to fund a feasibility study that will examine the practical uses of virtual, automated weigh stations in North Carolina. The total project budget for this first grant will be \$100,000.00. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has agreed to fund half of this cost, which is \$50,000.00. Therefore, we are requesting \$50,000.00 in forfeiture funds to pay our share of this expense.

The Highway Patrol has received a second grant, in support of two mobile data network technicians that will be funded by the Governor's Crime Commission. This project will pay salary and benefit costs associated with these two positions.

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For the past six years, these positions have provided critical user support to all of the Mobile Data Network subscribers. The network is currently being accessed by 10,991 individual officers, representing 359 separate agencies. The total project cost for this second grant will be \$111,681.00. The Governor's Crime Commission has agreed to pay 75% of this cost, or \$83,761.00, with federal grant funding. Therefore the Highway Patrol is requesting \$27,920.00 in forfeiture funds to pay the remaining 25% of this cost.

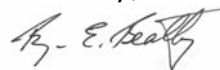
The third project being supported in this request will involve the purchase of twenty-one (21) digital in-car video cameras. These video cameras will be assigned to the 21 members of the Highway Patrol's Criminal Interdiction Team. Each camera costs \$4,944.00, so this request will require \$103,824.00 worth of asset forfeiture funds.

Our fourth request is to use \$150,000.00 worth of forfeiture funds to purchase 100 dual antenna radars. Approximately half of our state troopers currently use dual antenna radars. Ultimately we would like to see all troopers having access to this important technology.

Finally, for our fifth request, the State Highway Patrol would like to use \$100,000.00 in forfeiture funds to purchase one hundred (100) additional time-distance measuring devices, or "trackers." These trackers calculate a vehicle's speed through a fixed distance that is measured before the cars are clocked.

The total cost of all six requests equals \$431,744.00. As of July 31 2006, the fund balance for the Highway Patrol's primary forfeiture account (2420) was \$792,269.00. The Highway Patrol also maintains a separate asset forfeiture account (2430), devoted to motor carrier enforcement operations. This second account has a balance of \$532,126.00. The Highway Patrol requests permission to use this Motor Carrier Enforcement fund to support all five requests illustrated in this request. If this request is approved, the new balance of the Motor Carrier Enforcement fund will equal \$100,382.00.

Sincerely,



Bryan E. Beatty
Secretary

BEB:tcc

cc: Colonel W. Fletcher Clay
Major W. D. Munday
Bennie Aiken
Thomas Caves, Jr.