



North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety

Michael F. Easley, Governor

Bryan E. Beatty, Secretary

November 30, 2007

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

The Honorable Joe Hackney
Speaker of the House
North Carolina House of Representatives
Legislative Building, Room 2304
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

Dear Senator Basnight and Speaker Hackney:

Pursuant to applicable state law, the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Division respectfully reports its intent to use \$524,724.00 in Federal Seizure funds for the following:

1. Mobile Data Terminals/Printers/Monitors

In 1998, the Alcohol Law Enforcement Division acquired its first lot of Mobile Data Terminals, or MDTs, by means of a grant from the Governor's Crime Commission with matching funds provided from ALE's Federal Forfeiture account. These valuable law enforcement devices allowed agents in their vehicles, to quickly access important information regarding persons, motor vehicles and events, helping to protect the safety of the general public and the law enforcement officers.

ALE is now at a point where many of the laptop computers that are part of the MDT system are in dire need of replacement. Attempting to repair existing units would be an exercise in futility, as many parts are obsolete and prohibitively expensive. Even with repairs and upgrades the old units would lag far behind current industry standards and work would be slow and inefficient. Replacement of the outdated and failing laptops is essential to ensure agents have reliable, dependable access to the law enforcement network and related applications. In all, thirty-six (36) MDT laptops require replacement at this time.

In early 2007, ALE began participating in the Administrative Office of the Courts eCitation project. This technology allows officers to issue citations from their vehicle by using a laptop computer and mobile printer. eCitation allows the officer to automatically import offender data from DMV records, saving time in the process. Once issued, the eCitation is transmitted over the network to the appropriate

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Clerk of Court, thereby eliminating the need for the agent to hand-deliver paper copies of the citations. Agents report increased efficiency, fewer errors and better records management.

The mobile printer is a necessary component of the eCitation system. Without the ability to print offender copies of the citations, agents must return to hand writing citations, requiring more time and subjecting the citation to misinterpretation and errors. Originally, AOC provided ALE with eighty (80) portable printers for use with the eCitation project. Unfortunately AOC has exhausted their supply of printers, leaving ALE short of having enough printers to finish implementing eCitation for all its sworn members.

With laptops and Mobile Data Terminals replacing traditional desktop computers, the screens of these devices become smaller and smaller. While the smaller screens are beneficial in a mobile environment, such as a patrol vehicle, they are an impediment when used for prolonged periods in an office environment. As employees spend considerable periods of time reading and preparing reports, corresponding via e-mail and recording activities through computer systems, their eyes become tired and fatigued when subjected to small computer screens.

By combining a desktop monitor with the laptop computer, employees can still enjoy the portability of the laptop in the mobile environment with the ease of use and comfort of a larger screen in the office environment. Sharing the laptop between the vehicle and the office also means a savings versus purchasing a separate laptop and desktop computers.

Therefore, the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Division respectfully requests to expend \$179,907.00 to replace (36) out-dated and obsolete Mobile Data Terminals, purchase (36) mobile printers for use with the eCitation system and to purchase (24) desktop monitors.

2. Copiers/Network Printers

The North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Division is serviced by nine District Offices stationed in geographically strategic locations throughout the state. Each of these offices supports between ten and 18 employees who conduct various administrative and operational business activities from the offices. The current photocopiers in the District Offices are several years old and have been suffering from poor performance, such as slow copy speed and repeated service calls for some time, leaving these machines unreliable and inefficient.

Therefore, the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Division respectfully requests to expend \$39,393.00 to replace nine photocopiers, (one in each of our District Offices).

3. Polygraph Chairs

ALE utilizes polygraph examinations as part of background investigations for prospective employees as well as a valuable investigatory tool. During the exam, it is important that the person being tested remain as comfortable as possible in order to eliminate any unnecessary movement or discomfort that would interfere with the examination results. Polygraph chairs are specifically designed for the examinee to sit in while the examination is taking place. The chair has adjustable armrests which allow for the arms to be moved away from the examinee's body. This adjustment is essential because polygraph examinations are performed on people of various sizes. This position enables the examiner to capture more reliable readings because the cardio and pneumonic tracings are prevented from interfering with each other. The chair's wide armrests also provide a good base for the galvanic skin response electrodes to rest while the test is being administered.

Therefore, the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Division respectfully requests to expend \$1,730.00 to purchase two polygraph examination chairs.

4. 800 MHz Radios

The necessity for cooperation between public safety agencies was highlighted with the events of 9/11. The need for police officers and other emergency personnel to communicate efficiently in a time of crisis is paramount to public safety. The State of North Carolina has recognized the need for interoperability between public safety agencies and is building the VIPER statewide radio network.

In order for ALE to provide valuable resources to local, state and federal agencies, we need to be able to communicate effectively with these agencies through the VIPER network. At present, ALE needs thirty (30) 800 MHz portable radios to completely equip all of its sworn personnel. This purchase will ensure reliable communications with other agencies as well as provide for safety of our agents, who must often rely on radio communications in times of danger.

Therefore, the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Division respectfully requests to expend \$160,000.00 to purchase thirty (30) 800 MHz portable radios.

5. Hearing Protectors

During firearms training, agents are potentially exposed to noises in the range of 140 decibels; this level of noise causes pain and even brief exposure can result in injury to unprotected ears. Hearing protectors are provided by ALE and are mandated to be worn on the firing line during firearms training. Unfortunately a large number of the hearing protectors issued to our agents are at least ten years old and some may exceed twenty years.

Hearing protectors that provide excellent protection and meet all OSHA and ANSI standards are available. These improved hearing protectors can preserve the overall hearing health of the agents and substantially raise the level of safety on the firing range.

Therefore, the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Division respectfully requests to expend \$8,190.00 to purchase 117 new hearing protectors.

6. Microsoft Streets & Trips

Law enforcement, like many other professionals, has quickly become highly agile and mobile. Keeping agents in the field instead of the office is a top priority of ALE management. Tools like Mobile Data Terminals and wireless Internet allow agents to conduct work in the field environment that traditionally would have taken place tethered to a desk in an office.

Microsoft Streets & Trips is a software package equipped with a GPS receiver that integrates with an agent's MDT in their vehicle. The program provides detailed, up-to-date maps of areas of specific interest to the user. Use of this program would allow agents to pin map their ABC and lottery outlets within their assigned area, assisting in planning outlet inspections, compliance checks and other investigations. Information gathered through the program could also be used in preparing search warrants and other reports.

Therefore, the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Division respectfully requests to expend \$10,504.00 to purchase 117 Microsoft Streets & Trips with GPS receivers for sworn personnel.

7. Training

Because of the variety of responsibilities and investigations the Alcohol Law Enforcement Division conducts, training is an essential tool in the investigation and enforcement process. Historically, ALE has never been allocated a training budget, essential funding that will allow for agents to attend training activities to enhance their ability to perform their given tasks at a higher level of proficiency. This funding will allow for agents to request specific training in order to accomplish division goals as well as to

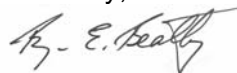
enhance their skills in areas beneficial to the Division. Specifically, training in the areas of Leadership, Management and Advanced Criminal Investigations has been identified as being critical to the continued professional development of ALE. Therefore, the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Division respectfully requests to allocate \$125,000.00 for training purposes.

Summary:

Item	Description	Quantity	Expenditure
1	Mobile Data Terminals	36	\$ 161,775.00
	Mobile Printers	80	\$ 11,132.00
	Desktop Monitors	24	\$ 7,000.00
2	Copiers	9	\$ 39,393.00
3	Polygraph Chairs	2	\$ 1,730.00
4	800 MHz Radios	30	\$ 160,000.00
5	Hearing Protectors	117	\$ 8,190.00
6	Microsoft Streets & Trips	117	\$ 10,504.00
7	Training Budget	1	<u>\$ 125,000.00</u>
Total Request			\$ 524,724.00

As of November 29, 2007, the balance of the Federal Seizure Fund held by the Alcohol Law Enforcement Division was \$2,744,069.69. If these requests are approved, the remaining balance will be \$ 2,219,345.69.

Sincerely,



Bryan E. Beatty
Secretary

cc: Chief Deputy Secretary Gerald A. Rudisill
Director William C. Chandler, Ph.D.
Bennie Aiken, Controller