



North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety

Michael F. Easley, Governor

Bryan E. Beatty, Secretary

February 22, 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
State Legislative Building, Room 2304
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

Dear Senator Basnight and Speaker Hackney:

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 \$412,797.00 in Federal Seizure funds for the following five projects.

The first project will enable our agency to purchase 205 new mobile data computers. At \$4,878.05 per computer, the total budget for this purchase will be one million dollars, (\$1,000,000.00). We are anticipating a federal grant through the Governor's Highway Safety Program to fund two-thirds of this purchase, or \$750,000.00. We need \$250,000.00 in forfeiture money to fund the rest of this important project. New mobile data computers enable our Troopers to process reports in the field, saving them time and allowing them to devote more of their shift towards proactive patrol. Therefore the total cost of this first request will be \$250,000.00 in forfeiture funds.

The Highway Patrol also reports their intent to use \$50,000.00 towards the required match of a grant from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). In the interest of fostering automated, electronic submissions of collision reports, FMCSA has indicated their interest to fund the establishment of 802.11 "WiFi" connections to the internet at all Highway Patrol office locations. Stations set to be equipped will include satellite offices, Motor Carrier Enforcement offices, weigh stations, and disaster recovery emergency operations centers. The total cost for this project will be \$250,000.00. FMCSA is willing to fund up to 80% of this cost, or \$200,000.00. Therefore we need \$50,000.00 in forfeiture money to complete this project. The grant from FMCSA will also cover 80% of the cost incurred by hiring two time-limited contractors that can help with installing the mobile data computers that GHSP is about to award the Highway Patrol. The contractors will also provide

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user support for State Troopers accessing the 802.11 signal. The 802.11 signal will only be available to Highway Patrol employees for now, while we examine ways to enhance the bandwidth capability of the state's Mobile Data Network. At present speed, the Mobile Data Network cannot facilitate the transmission of collision reports. The total request for this second project will be for \$50,000.00 worth of forfeiture funds.

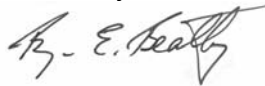
The Highway Patrol also plans to use \$59,548.00 in forfeiture funding to support radio encryption upgrades for one hundred (100) radios being used by State Troopers. These radios belong to specialized units within the Highway Patrol. Members assigned to these units exchange sensitive information that is critical to our success. Radio traffic within these units must be secure at all times, to eliminate any compromise of officer safety, dignitary protection, or infrastructure integrity. The total request for this third project equals \$59,548.00.

Our fourth request involves a grant from the Governor's Crime Commission. The GCC has awarded grant money to our agency to support the cost of hiring two time-limited network technician positions that support the Mobile Data Network. For the past seven years, these positions have provided critical user support to all of the Mobile Data Network subscribers. The network is currently being accessed by 12,048 individual officers, representing 371 separate agencies. The total project cost for this second grant will be \$117,716.00. The Governor's Crime Commission has agreed to pay 75% of this cost, or \$88,287.00, with federal grant funding. Therefore the Highway Patrol is requesting \$29,249.00 in forfeiture funds to pay the remaining 25% of this cost.

The Highway Patrol's fifth and final request is a proposal to use \$24,000.00 in forfeiture funds to support the purchase of non-lethal ammunition, consisting of 500 rounds of 40mm rubber projectiles. These munitions enable our Mobile Field Force to engage criminal elements without having to resort to deadly force. The \$24,000.00 budget includes money for weapon holsters, knee pads, elbow pads, shin guards, and other gear for the Mobile Field Force.

The total cost of all five requests equals \$412,797.00. As of January 31 2007, the fund balance for the Highway Patrol's three forfeiture accounts, (2420, 2425, and 2430), was \$1,894,678.00. If this request is approved, the new balance of our forfeiture account revenue will equal \$1,481,881.00.

Sincerely,



Bryan E. Beatty
Secretary

BEB:tcc

cc: Colonel W. Fletcher Clay
Lieutenant Colonel M. R. Johnson
Major C. J. Carden
Major W. F. Sandy
Bennie Aiken
Thomas Caves