



## North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety

Michael F. Easley, Governor

Bryan E. Beatty, Secretary

January 22, 2008

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 Section 15.3 of the Current Operations and Capital Improvements Appropriations Act of 2007, the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Division (ALE) is a participant in the Equitable Sharing of Federally Forfeited Property Program with the United States Department of Justice and the Department of Treasury. As a result of participation in this program and the support of the Joint Legislative Commission on Government Operations, ALE has been able to provide valuable equipment and support to its members in the pursuit of its mission.

The Division hereby reports its intent to use Federal Forfeiture Funds to purchase the items on the attached list. These items are needed to enhance agent safety, and to facilitate investigations. As of December 31 2007, the balance of the Federal Seizure Fund held by ALE was \$2,219,345.69. Pursuant to applicable state law, ALE hereby reports its intent to utilize \$453,864.47 in Federal Seizure funds as detailed on the following pages. The remaining balance after the expenditures detailed herein will be \$1,765,481.22

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan E. Beatty".

Bryan E. Beatty  
Secretary

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

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ITEM REQUESTED	AMOUNT
<u>Telephone System</u> : ALE will be relocating its Wilmington District office in 2008. This move will be a prime opportunity to replace the current telephone system in that office. The current system is over 20 years, having been installed when the office was initially leased, old and is antiquated, with many parts and service components no longer stocked.	<b>\$7,500.00</b>
<u>Fixed Lighting Systems for Weapons</u> : \$116.49 x 117 (1 per agent) These lighting systems will provide increased safety for agents when conducting high risk activities at night or in dark environments. This system eliminates the need for the agent to have to handle a flashlight separately from the weapon, significantly increasing officer safety as well as assisting in target confirmation, thereby ensuring safety of the general public.	<b>\$13,629.33</b>
<u>GPS Surveillance Systems</u> : \$7,286.30 each x 11 (1 per district + 2 surveillance vehicles) ALE often conducts investigations that require agents to follow suspects traveling in motor vehicles. This operations leads to high costs in fuel, excessive wear on vehicles, and agent overtime. These systems will offer increased efficiency, cost savings and agent safety.	<b>\$80,149.30</b>
<u>Lightweight Jacket with ALE in Bold Reflective Letters on the Back</u> : \$36.99 x 132 (1 per agent + spares) High visibility of agents is an important concern during search warrants and enforcement activities. Jackets have not been replaced since 1994 and are in need of replacement. This is an agent safety issue and allows for ready identification as law enforcement officers.	<b>\$4,882.68</b>
<u>Audio Transmitter and Receiver Systems</u> : \$6,095.00 each x 9 (1 per district) Items will be used to gather audio evidence during covert operations. Transmitters are worn by an undercover agent or confidential source and their conversations are securely transmitted to a dedicated receiver. This equipment is used to monitor conversations between agents and suspects to allow early identification of potential problems and dangerous situations and to gather direct evidence of criminal activity.	<b>\$54,855.00</b>
<u>Large Safes</u> : \$1,800.00 each x 9 (1 per district) Additional security for seized weapons, contraband evidence and sensitive items at District Offices is essential for public safety and the integrity of evidence. Safes will be securely bolted to the floor in the evidence room. Secure storage of evidence is required by the Administrative Office of the Courts, and by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).	<b>\$16,200.00</b>
<u>Night Vision Goggles</u> : \$3,495 x 20 Agents frequently conduct activities in low-light and no-light environments during which illumination would be counter-productive or dangerous to the agent. These items would allow agents to safely and effectively conduct such investigations. Their use would allow agents to identify potential dangerous issues more quickly.	<b>\$69,900.00</b>
<u>Flashlights &amp; Spare Batteries</u> : (\$248.48 total cost for two flashlights x 117 agents) Flashlights are a crucial tool for law enforcement. These items would replace older, larger models with limited battery capacity. Two lights, one large one for extensive use and one smaller, concealable light that can be carried in an agent's pocket. The ability to illuminate dark areas, both during the day and night, is an officer safety issue.	<b>\$29,072.16</b>

<u>Digital Audio Recorders</u> : \$149.00 each x 117 (1 per agent) These devices allow agents to dictate important case information and notes in the field environment and then download them later to their computer workstation. These are replacements for 20+ year old mini-cassette style recorders. Having these devices allows agents to directly record interviews of suspects and witnesses. Directly recorded evidence greatly aids in the prosecution of criminal offenses.	<b>\$17,433.00</b>
<u>Digital Video Recorders</u> : \$800.00 each x 18 (2 per district) These recorders will be used to secure evidence, record crime scenes and capture other important criminal and administrative violation data in digital format so that it can be converted to a computer file or DVD for easy sharing and presentation. ALE will be replacing VHS based recorders that are large, cumbersome and antiquated. Directly recorded video enhances prosecutions.	<b>\$14,400.00</b>
<u>Binoculars</u> : \$799.00 x 117 (1 per agent) Binoculars allow agents to conduct investigations from safe distances, gathering visual observations of suspected activities. These items will replace older and ineffective items.	<b>\$93,483.00</b>
<u>Surveillance Scopes</u> : \$1000.00 each x 18 (2 per district) Used to aid agents in gathering visual evidence from very long distances when the agents is unable to be in close proximity to observe suspect activities due to safety or discovery concerns. Currently we only have binoculars and they have a limited effective range. To be able to view suspects at great distances increased optical power is needed and binoculars at this power are not stable. These scopes are tripod mounted. These devices are to be used to observe criminal activity and to identify potential threats earlier.	<b>\$18,000.00</b>
<u>Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs)</u> : \$2,224.00 each x 15 (1 per district + 1 Basic School + 4 Firearms + 1 HQ, plus \$1,000.00 for Training Costs) Portable defibrillators are becoming increasingly important as cardiac arrest incidents occur at any time and any place. These devices will provide critical life-saving resources to for agents, trainees, suspects and citizens. This is an officer and citizen safety enhancement.	<b>\$34,360.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$453,864.47</b>