



**ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR**

**NORTH CAROLINA  
STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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**ROBERT SCHURMEIER  
DIRECTOR**

December 9, 2019

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

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

Dear Senator Berger and Speaker Moore:

Pursuant to Section 16B.2 of the 2017 State Appropriations Act, the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) participates in the Equitable Sharing of Federally Forfeited Property with the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Department of Treasury.

On July 9, 2019, the SBI reported our intent to use \$134,400 worth of Federal Forfeiture funds to support the purchase of 230 Apple Watches for sworn investigators. Due to the recurring costs associated with these watches and other deployment issues, the agency has decided not to make that purchase at this time. Instead the SBI reports our intent to use these same funds to support the purchase of larger investigative communication tools (iPads) which can be used in the field in a broader approach to investigative needs. The \$134,400 currently budgeted in special fund 1901-24555-2450-64H5 will now be used to purchase iPad devices for our sworn investigators.

The SBI also reports our intent to use \$25,000 of new asset forfeiture funds to support equipment and specialized training needs pursuant to our annual "Special Agent Academies."

As of November 30, 2019, the SBI Federal Forfeiture Fund had an unencumbered balance of \$602,556.05. If this request to use new funds is approved, the available balance will become \$577,556.05.

The SBI is grateful for the availability of federal forfeiture funds to enhance our law enforcement capabilities and your support of these initiatives is critical to our success.

Sincerely,

  
Robert L. Schurmeier  
Director

RLS/tcc

cc: Members of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice and Public Safety  
Deputy Director Gerald R. Thomas

ITEMS REQUESTED – NC STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	AMOUNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><u>iPad Devices for Criminal Investigations:</u></b> – Purchase of new iPads will replace an earlier request for Apple Watches. iPads will be used by sworn investigators during criminal investigations, for routine case work.</li> </ul>	\$ 134,400
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><u>Special Agent Academy Training Equipment and Instructional Needs:</u></b> – This purchase will support acquisition of equipment, specialized instruction, and other training needs for SBI Trainees, and other investigators.</li> </ul>	\$ 25,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <del><b><u>Apple Watches:</u></b> The Apple watch will also serve as the primary means of communication between investigators performing UC assignments and the established command personnel in the command post at large scale events where investigators have been requested for UC and plainclothes work. Due to the nature of undercover (UC) assignments in attempting to develop actionable Intelligence regarding threats to public protests and/or venues, it would be beneficial and assist in officer safety to have the apple watch. (NEW ITEM)</del></li> </ul>	<del>\$ 134,400</del>
REVISED REQUEST	\$ 159,400
- \$ 134,400 approved in July 2019	- \$ 134,400
TOTAL FOR NEW REQUEST	\$ 25,000