



## North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety

Michael F. Easley, Governor

Bryan E. Beatty, Secretary

October 29, 2003

The Honorable Marc Basnight  
President Pro-Tempore  
North Carolina Senate  
State 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

The Honorable Richard T. Morgan  
Speaker of the House  
North Carolina House of Representatives  
State Legislative Office Building, Suite 301  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Senator Basnight, Speaker Black, and Speaker Morgan:

Pursuant to Section 23.1 of the Current Operations Appropriations Act of 2001, the State Highway Patrol reports its intent to use **\$1,323,227** in Federal Seizure funds from the Highway Patrol's Asset Forfeiture Fund for the following seven projects:

- 1) The Highway Patrol intends to use \$489,375 in Federal Seizure funds towards the purchase and installation of new communication consoles at our communications/dispatch center in Elizabethtown. Reliable communications with the field is an essential component of our agency's many functions, and the

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existing consoles have exceeded their service life.

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The floor at this dispatch center must also be replaced, but that repair will be paid for by the North Carolina Department of Transportation's General Services Division. If this request is approved, the floor replacement can be coordinated when the old consoles are moved out of the building.

- 2) The Highway Patrol would like to use \$340,000 towards the purchase of new logging recorders at each of the agency's eight dispatch centers across the state. This money will enable the Patrol to purchase recording devices at each communication center. The existing logging recorders require the purchase of tapes and other medium while the new devices funded with this purchase will record conversations between Troopers and dispatchers digitally. The cost of all storage media is included in the purchase price of \$340,000. Additionally, the Patrol currently pays \$40,000 every year for a maintenance contract on the existing recorders. The new contract will be sufficiently less than \$40,000 annually with the new devices. Therefore, this \$340,000 expense for new logging recorders will result in multiple savings for the State for years to come.
- 3) The Patrol intends to use \$30,885 from the Asset Forfeiture Account to pay for eighty (80) vehicular radio chargers. If this request is approved, these chargers will be installed in 80 vehicles that are operated by State Troopers. The chargers are necessary for Troopers to charge their portable radios.
- 4) The Patrol also wishes to use \$271,300 towards the cost of purchasing one hundred (100) radio repeater devices for Troopers across North Carolina. These devices keep our Troopers in contact with Communication Centers and this provides a vital link that helps to keep Troopers in contact with backup assistance whenever it becomes necessary.
- 5) Finally, the Patrol intends to use \$191,667 in Federal Seizure funds to be applied towards the construction of a shelter and storage building at the North Carolina Highway Patrol Driving Track. At present, the Driver Training facility does not have any shelter located in the immediate driver training area to protect students from extreme climatic conditions while participating in driver training exercises. Students in the staging area are presently exposed to sun, wind, and extreme temperatures. Additionally, the Driver Training facility previously had a canvas, geodesic structure to store equipment; however, the recent ice storm damaged the structure and has since been removed. Therefore, tires and rims for high-speed and precision driving vehicles, two fire trucks, ground and maintenance equipment

(including a tractor and a spreader for dispersing ice-melting materials), and training motorcycles are not kept in a secured building.

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Equipment used at this facility is currently exposed to the elements and reduces the likelihood that emergency equipment will properly work when needed. For example, both fire trucks require proper storage space in order to prevent water tanks from freezing and to protect hoses from cracking due to sun exposure and extreme heat or frigid temperatures. This storage building will enable the Patrol to secure driver training equipment and diminish costly repairs or premature replacement.

The total cost of all five requests is \$1,323,227. As of September 30 2003, the Highway Patrol's Federal Seizure fund had an unencumbered balance of \$1,382,254. If this request is approved, the new balance of this fund will equal \$59,027.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. E. Beatty", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bryan E. Beatty  
Secretary

BEB:tcc

cc: Colonel R.W. Holden  
Major W.F. Clay  
Major W.D. Munday  
Major C.J. Carden  
Fred J. Tucker  
Legislative Staff