



North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety

Michael F. Easley, Governor

Bryan E. Beatty, Secretary

October 2, 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 2007 Appropriations Act, 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 items included in this request are needed to enhance agent safety, and to facilitate investigations.

As of October 01, 2008, the balance of the Federal Seizure Fund held by ALE was \$2,095,124.55. Pursuant to applicable state law, ALE hereby reports its intent to utilize \$788,875.70 in Federal Seizure funds as detailed on the following pages. The remaining balance after the expenditures detailed herein will be \$1,306,248.85.

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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Alco-sensor Field Sobriety Test (FST) kits: \$315.00 per kit x 130 (1 per agent) plus \$1200 for related supplies (mouthpieces, passive sample cups): Alco-sensor FST kits are used by ALE agents to monitor blood alcohol levels in the process of identifying underage consumers of alcoholic beverages and to establish probable cause in alcohol sales to intoxicated persons investigations. These new alco-sensors which are capable of testing passive samples will replace the 20 year old alco-sensors currently being used by ALE field agents. The instruments currently in use are failing at a high rate and are so old that parts are no longer available for repairs.

\$ 42,150.00

Platform Vans: 106,485.00 per van x 2= 212,970 + 3% highway tax: ALE's two current technical surveillance vans were commissioned into service in 2000 and their use has resulted in millions of dollars in seized funds. ALE agents utilize these vans for a myriad of activities including surveillance of illegal alcohol, controlled substance and gambling locations, these vehicles are used during undercover investigations to provide close security and evidence collection capabilities. Investigations have been recently delayed while agents wait for a platform van to become available. Expanding the technical surveillance program will allow for more efficient deployment of the platform resources, resulting in more cases worked in less time as well as extending the service life of the current vehicles and providing more diversity in the fleet. The use of these vehicles is strictly controlled and their use requires prior approval by the Director or Deputy Director for Operations.

\$ 219,359.10

Replacement MDTs: \$3,376.60 per MDT x 36: ALE is now at a point where many of the laptop computers that are part of the MDT system are in need of replacement. Attempting to repair existing units would be overly expensive, as many parts are prohibitively expensive and even with repairs the old units would lag far behind current industry standards. Replacement of the outdated and failing laptops is essential to ensure agents have reliable, dependable access to the law enforcement network and related applications.

\$ 121,557.60

Office Furniture: Various Needs: Many pieces of office furniture used in the Division's offices are well over 20 years old and in various states of disrepair. Division offices do not have adequate furniture to accommodate agents trying to complete administrative tasks. This furniture, which will be used in all 10 ALE office locations, is essential to the effective management of Division office space.

\$ 82,035.00

Tools: \$900 per office x 10 (District Offices + HQ): A tool kit including automobile supplies is needed for each district office and Headquarters. These tools will be used for various tasks including but not limited to striping cars of emergency equipment, jump starting vehicles with dead batteries, and general office maintenance. The availability of these tool kits in each office will enable each office to work more efficiently with less time lost as a result of having to wait on tools from other locations.

\$ 9,000.00

Protective Equipment for Basic School and In-Service Defensive Tactis Training: Head protectors: \$114 each x 16 = \$1,824.00; Throat protectors: \$40 each x 16 = \$640.00; Padded training suits: \$1,050 each x 2 = \$2,100.00; Asp training baton: \$60 each x 12 = \$720.00; Asp training pads: \$170 each x 12 = \$2,040.00: This equipment is used by ALE agents and instructors in the ALE Basic School as well as In-Service programs and is essential to the proper training of high liability and officer safety courses such as defensive tactics and subject control techniques. The current equipment has been used for many years and needs to be replaced to ensure that agents are provided the most effective training with adequate, safe, and highly functioning equipment.

\$ 7,324.00

Agent Clothing and Apparel: Badge Shirts: \$50.00 each x 2 short-sleeve shirts per agent x 125 agents = 250 = \$12,500.00; Badge Shirts: \$50.00 x 2 long-sleeve shirts per agent x 125 agents = 250 shirts = \$12,500.00; Pants: \$50.00 each x 2 pair per agent x 125 agents = 250 = \$12,500.00; Boots: \$115.00 each x 130 pair = \$14,950.00. Agents utilize these articles of clothing and apparel during training, searches and enforcement instances where it is critical that the agents be recognized as law enforcement officers. Replacing these items will ensure that agents look professional as they perform their daily duties.

\$ 52,450.00

Replacement of ALE Issued Handguns, Leather Goods, and Ammunition: The ALE Division's currently issued handguns have been in service for approximately six years. The weapons have experienced a spring failure issue that required all the weapons be collected and modified. Currently several weapons have experienced trigger bar wear issues that have caused several weapons to cease functioning. This issue will require the replacement of trigger bars and springs for all weapons. This has occurred due to everyday wear and tear from training and annual proficiency qualifications. This is a significant officer safety issue that needs immediate attention. These handguns and holsters will be provided for the 117 to full-time ALE agents as well as the 21 reserve agents and will allow for several spare weapons to be available in the event of maintenance issues or emergencies. A large amount of ammunition will be required for training and qualification purposes as well as general issuance to agents. The holsters, belts and magazine carriers currently in use are showing a significant amount of wear and are in need of replacement.

\$ 255,000.00

Grand Total

\$ 788,875.70