

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 05, 2023

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Commerce, Justice, Science, and
Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20501

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Commerce, Justice, Science, and
Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Chair Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran:

I write to you today in support of the following congressionally directed spending requests:

(1) *Beaufort County Viper Radio Project - \$893,000*

- a. Beaufort County NC still operates on an analog VHF radio system that does not allow for interoperability. The surrounding counties, as well as the State, have or are in the process of migrating to the VIPER 800mhz Systems. Communications interoperability among public safety agencies is a critical element in emergency response. The project's purpose is to improve the interoperability of public safety communications across the County and with our neighboring counties and municipalities.

(2) *Concord Police Department Rapid DNA Testing - \$188,218*

- a. In 2022, Concord experienced a 41% increase in violent crime. Federal funds would help the Concord Police Department (CPD) purchase rapid DNA technology and equipment to better address rising crime. This technology aligns with CPD's evidence-based community policing strategy and philosophy to be a data-driven and intelligence-led organization.

(3) *Elon Public Safety Equipment - \$102,500*

- a. Elon is seeking funding to: (1) purchase Panasonic Tough Book replacement computers (15) for police cruisers, replacing outdated equipment; and (2) purchase Flock Safety Cameras (10) with Flock Safety Advanced Search capabilities. This system will integrate with similar units in neighboring jurisdictions, allowing for instant information sharing among jurisdictions. This request is intended to assist the police department to upgrade critical operating equipment to current standards, and to allow them to better inter-connect with

neighboring departments with up to date information needed during many police interactions.

(4) Greenville Police Department Equipment and Technology Upgrade - \$1.4 million

- a. In 2009, the department began using the “first generation” release of body-worn cameras to record interactions between the police department and the citizens. Currently, all recordings are maintained on “in-house” servers. Given the significant the advances in technology and the methods of storing and sharing data, the GPD’s equipment and technology is obsolete. After 14 years, the Department plans to implement a more robust system capable of sharing data with our partners.

(5) Halifax County Detention Center, Body Scanner - \$225,000

- a. The purpose of purchasing the body security scanner for use in the Halifax County Detention Center is to offer more privacy and safety to inmates during the body search process, as well as to keep detention officers safe and make the body search process more efficient and thorough and less prone to human error. In so doing, this project is consistent with helping to improve the criminal justice system.

(6) Henderson County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad Upgrade - \$234,544

- a. To provide updated equipment to the Henderson County Sheriff's Office which will enhance the ability of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office Hazardous Device Unit to respond to, and mitigate, potentially deadly situations involving man made devices. These devices are usually explosive, incendiary, or chemical in nature. Only three accredited Hazardous Device Units (Bomb Squads) are positioned to serve Western North Carolina. These units are the Asheville Police Department Bomb Squad, The State Bureau of Investigation Bomb Squad, and the Henderson County bomb Squad. The Henderson County Bomb Squad is in dire need of updated robotic equipment and X-ray technology. Without these upgrades Henderson County could potentially lose accreditation.

(7) Raleigh Police Department Public Safety Intelligence Management System - \$629,032

- a. The system will provide analytic tools to produce real-time, actionable information to drive Raleigh Police Department’s proactive responses to crime patterns and emergencies. The system will also modernize the management of informants’ confidential information reported to solve crimes. The requested technology will be used to operationalize concepts included in 21st-century policing and data-driven policing that are more difficult to measure, such as police legitimacy, accountability, enhanced decision-making, and operational readiness. In all, both the Raleigh Police Department and the community served will benefit from the deployment and use of police resources for efficient and effective policing in our community.

(8) Rowan County Veterans Treatment Court - \$546,600

- a. The VTC will provide a coordinated community response to vets charged with criminal offenses. Rowan VTC is a “diversion court” model that rehabilitates at-risk veterans, providing them tools to lead a productive, healthy, and law-abiding life that is achieved through treatment, rehabilitative programming, reinforcement, and judicial monitoring. Rowan VTC will identify eligible veterans, assess their needs, offer them specific assistance, help them manage their care, and address their issues.

(9) Sampson County Sheriff's Office Body Scanner - \$220,265

- a. The Sheriff is requesting assistance in funding to purchase a Tek84 Body Scanner which can be used to thoroughly search new detainees prior to entering the Detention Center where they will be housed. This scanner will help ensure safety of staff and detainees by detecting illegal weapons and contraband that could inflict harm if not detected. By providing funding, safety could be provided to staff and detainees in a rural NC county with limited resources.

(10) Statesville Police Department Body-Worn and In-Car Camera Systems Replacement - \$410,000

- a. To procure 65 body-worn camera systems and 40 in-car camera systems Statesville Police Department (SPD) to replace outdated and obsolete technology. This request for funding to purchase these cameras will benefit SPD and the community at large. Evidence-based studies related to officer body-worn cameras and in-car cameras being utilized shows overwhelming positive outcomes. These outcomes include but are not limited to: enhancing officer safety and training; Improving community and media perception; enhancing police performance and professionalism; improving agency accountability and internal controls; reducing liability; and, strengthening prosecution and case resolution. With the national climate surrounding law enforcement incidents, current evidence-based technology is integral in improving outcomes.

Thank you for your attention to these requests.

Sincerely,



Senator Thom Tillis