



# ROWAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## KEVIN L. AUTEN, SHERIFF

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Aaron Church, County Manager  
FROM: Sheriff Kevin Auten  
REF: FY2021 NC Governor's Crime Commission Local Law Enforcement Block Grant  
DATE: January 6, 2021

The Rowan County Sheriff's Office has been notified that there is a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant available for our office to make an application for. The grant is for a one-time maximum amount of \$24,500 for various types of law enforcement related equipment, and the grant is paid to the county via reimbursement after the equipment has been purchased. This grant **does not** require any matching funds from Rowan County. The application is due January 31, 2021, but the awards are for the period of October 1, 2021 until September 31, 2022. The Rowan County Sheriff's Office would like to request equipment that we feel will promote the safety of our Deputies in the daily challenges that they face.

The Rowan County Sheriff's Office proposes to use the grant funds to purchase the following items:

- 1.) A "Tactical Throw Phone" system that would be used in situations such as a barricaded suspect, or a suspect holding a hostage, and there is no way to communicate with the suspect to hopefully diffuse the situation without having to use deadly force. This equipment could prevent serious injury or death to innocent victims, Deputies trying to bring the suspect under control, and to the suspect who has by their actions required law enforcement to respond. The system includes a military grade phone in a protective box that can be thrown into a structure, a standalone negotiator console with headsets, a built-in room monitor speaker, and a digital recorder for recording all of the conversations with the suspect, along with any activity captured by the room monitor speaker. The system also includes 50 feet of cut resistant cable and 1000 feet of communications cable. The standalone system is priced at \$4,000.
- 2.) Rugged Push Bumpers with fender wraps, headlight coverage, and with 4 mounted lights that would be mounted on patrol vehicles used by Deputies who answer calls for service throughout Rowan County. The deer population in our county is high, and continues to be a hazard to our Deputies who answers calls for service 24 hours a day, especially during the night time hours. The RCSO has suffered damage to several patrol vehicles requiring costly repairs, and with each crash there is the chance that the Deputy could loose control of the vehicle, causing serious personal injury to the Deputy and/or a third party. The danger of a serious injury to the Deputy who strikes a deer is always high. The RCSO did recently outfit a patrol vehicle with rugged push bumpers, and it did strike a deer while the Deputy was responding to the call, but the damage to the patrol vehicle was less than \$50. In an effort to reduce costly vehicle repairs and make Deputies responding to calls much safer from being involved in a serious accident, the RCSO proposes to

spend \$20,500 of the grant funds to purchase 14 of the rugged push bumper with the fender wraps, headlight coverage, and 4 mounted lights.

This memorandum is to request that this matter be placed on the consent agenda for approval.

cc: Chief Deputy David Ramsey  
Major C. A. Moose  
Major J. C. Sifford  
Captain G. L. Hannold  
Jim Howden, Finance Director  
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