



ROWAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

KEVIN L. AUTEN, SHERIFF

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Aaron Church, County Manager
FROM: Sheriff Kevin Auten
REF: FY2022 NC Governor's Crime Commission Local Law Enforcement Block Grant
DATE: January 20, 2022

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 an electronic transfer of funds once all grant requirements have been met. This grant **does not** require any matching funds from Rowan County. The application is due January 31, 2022, but the awards are for the period of October 1, 2022 until September 31, 2023. The Rowan County Sheriff's Office would like to request equipment that we feel will greatly improve the investigative ability of both our Criminal and Narcotic Investigation Units 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.) The Rowan County Sheriff's Office proposes to purchase two UFED Touch 2 Ultimate (Rugged) Portable Cellebrite Kits. The Criminal Investigative Division and the Special Investigative Unit would each be issued one of these pieces of equipment that would provide them with an efficient mobile extraction device that could be used to collect evidence and intelligence from cell phones in the field.

Our Criminal and Narcotics Investigators encounter multiple persons each day during investigations, traffic stops, and calls for service. Most everyone encountered has a cellphone that they use to communicate with other persons via texts, emails, and phone calls. Cell phones contain a digital profile of their owner that can be important potential evidence should the cell phone owner be guilty of a crime. The UFED Touch 2 device can be used to gather digital information consensually in the field which would aid our Investigators solve crimes and make arrests quicker. Each unit has a price of \$12,125, so the total cost for two units would be \$24,250. The cost of shipping would be \$125 for each unit, which would be a total of \$24,500.

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

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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