

VAL HOYLE
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2024 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, I respectfully request funding for the Benton County Regional Public Safety Radio Infrastructure – Benton County, Oregon, in the amount of \$2,000,000 within the Committee’s Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services Technology & Equipment account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Benton County Sheriff’s Office, located at 180 Northwest 5th Ave, Corvallis, OR 97330. The project will be completed throughout and within Benton County.

The funding would be used to install three antennas and purchase handheld and mobile radios necessary to improve public safety and law enforcement emergency response, so that they have interoperability with each other, including local police agencies, the Benton County Sheriff’s Office, and local fire departments.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because a 2022 Radio Infrastructure Assessment and Improvement Plan revealed that a significant challenge with Benton County’s radio communications is the lack of interoperability and situational awareness caused by law enforcement and Fire/EMS when utilizing different radio systems, harming public safety. Furthermore, many parts of the rural county have “dead-zones” in which no radio communications are available. Radio infrastructure, as well as handheld and mobile radios, are also in various states of degradation and need updating.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in section 1701(b)(8) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. §

10381(b)(8)). This project aligns with the Subcommittee's stated purpose to fund projects that "...acquire technologies and equipment, including interoperable communications technologies ... to assist State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies..." The purpose of this request is not for the construction or renovation of a building.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Val T. Hoyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Val T. Hoyle
Member of Congress