

VAL HOYLE
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
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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 Coos County Records Reduction and Accessibility Project (Coos County, OR), in the amount of \$551,966 within the Committee's State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance – Byrne Justice Grants account as part of the Committee's Community Project Funding effort.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Coos County Sheriff's Office, located at 250 North Baxter Street, Coquille, OR 97423.

Coos County Records Reduction and Accessibility Project (Coos County, OR)

The Coos County Sheriff's Office (in Coos County, Oregon) is seeking funding to digitize criminal justice records within Coos County. The project would 1) increase their investigative ability by allowing the Sheriff's office to easily search records on individuals to determine involvement in past acts or historical backgrounds; 2) allow the Sheriff's Office to better serve the public by more quickly providing records which are the subject of court orders or Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests; 3) allow for discovery to be done more efficiently in ongoing or appealed cases; and 4) allow for records to easily be accessed in the event of an appeal or other needed court case.

It is common for cases to return to the court or be appealed months or years after the initial occurrence or trial. Currently, law enforcement records in Coos County go back as far as 1999 and consist of several hundred thousand pieces of paper and photographs. With these public records being stored in boxes, identifying specific records in a timely manner has become a near impossible task and has made it difficult for the Sheriff's office to carry out many of their law enforcement responsibilities.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds. By helping to digitize criminal justice records, the requested funding for this project would greatly help law enforcement efforts in Coos County, Oregon. The Coos County Sheriff's Office would use these funds to hire a contractor to scan, digitize, and organize existing files, as well as purchase related equipment to allow the County to maintain a digital file database into the future.

With these requested funds, the Coos County Sheriff's Office would purchase the following equipment:

- Document Management Software (20 licenses for one year): \$5,940
- Document Scanners: \$8,000
- (2) QNAP TS Servers with (18) 6TB WD gold hard drives: \$11,562.92

This project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

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