

**COUNTY OF GREENVILLE**  
**Greenville County Forensic Division Improvement**  
**Program Narrative**

The Greenville County Forensic Division Laboratory is part of the Greenville County Department of Public Safety. The Department was established in the mid 1970's to provide support services to the law enforcement agencies in Greenville County. We are funded solely through the County budget process and do not receive the financial benefit of seizure money used in the funding of other agencies. The Forensic Division Laboratory provides forensic services to the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, Greenville Police Department, Greer Police Department, Travelers Rest Police Department, Mauldin Police Department, Simpsonville Police Department, and Fountain Inn Police Department. These services include crime scene processing, latent print analysis, drug analysis, DNA analysis and firearms analysis. The Forensic Division Laboratory also periodically assists federal and state law enforcement agencies stationed in Greenville County. Assistance is also provided to other law enforcement agencies outside Greenville County with the approval of the Forensic Division Manager (Captain). This assistance is requested and provided on a regular basis in the areas of fingerprint, drug and firearms analysis.

This grant request is for equipment and training funds for the Latent Print Section of the Forensic Division. The field of forensics is ever changing with new/better equipment and methodology being employed. One recent change that has been noted by the Latent Print Section is the use of fluorescent fingerprint powders and chemicals in the development of finger/palm print evidence. Part of the process of the visualization of developed prints has to be done with an alternate light source. Currently, the Forensic Division Crime Scene Section has and utilizes one of the alternate light sources in their laboratory for the visualization of the developed prints. Once the prints are developed, they are forwarded to the Forensic Division Latent Print Section for examination and searching on the AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System). The Latent Print Section is receiving these prints on a more regular basis from the Crime Scene Section and other agencies served. Unfortunately, the Latent Print Section does not have an alternate light source to make the prints visible for comparison/AFIS searches. The only alternate light source available is at the Forensic Division offices at Greenville Technical College which is physically located approximately 5 miles from the Latent Print Office located at the Law Enforcement Center. Since the alternate light source in the Crime Scene Section is used in their daily twenty-four hour operation, it is not available for loan to the Latent Print Section.

In 2012, The Latent Print Section received latent print evidence from 2,323 cases. A total of 214,265 latent print examinations were conducted of both suspects and victims in these cases. Resulting from these examinations, there were a total of 3,218 print identifications were made by latent print examiners. The use of an alternate light source on latent print casework will enhance the ability to identify individuals through conventional means or on AFIS.

The acquisition of an alternate light source for the Latent Print Section will greatly increase the efficiency of the services provided. In addition to being utilized for fingerprint analysis, it is anticipated this light source will also be of benefit when conducting footwear examinations by the Latent Print Section.

One of the integral parts of the Forensic Division is the Latent Print Section. This section bears the responsibility of conducting examinations of finger/palm print evidence and impression evidence such as that left by footwear and tire. The Latent Print Section is staffed with two full-

time examiners supplemented by two part-time examiners that provide case peer/administrative review. The two part-time examiners are also available to supplement the full-time examiners in situations of manpower shortages and large volumes of casework. All four of these employees are required to be certified law enforcement officers and may be required to supplement Crime Scene Section Investigators in the event of manpower shortages or when their expertise is required on a crime scene.

In order to perform the job functions of these employees they must be trained in finger/palm print, footwear and tire impression examination. With a Forensic Division budget cutback of 24% over the past two years advanced training for Latent Print Section employees has become non-existent. (A detrimental factor in the training requirements for these officers is no local training is offered in the latent print or footwear/tire impression disciplines). Unfortunately, the availability of any free training through organizations such as NIJ is extremely limited and the competition for limited slots is overwhelming.

In 2009, a study of the state of the Forensic Science community was conducted by the National Academy of Sciences. This was highly critical in nature and several areas cited as substandard were the lack of accreditation of laboratories, insufficient training for analysts, and the need for certification of analysts in their area(s) of expertise. Currently, the Forensic Division is working in segments toward accreditation, with the first accredited area being the DNA Laboratory. The DNA Laboratory became the first section of the Forensic Division to achieve international accreditation by FQS (Forensic Quality Services) in 2011. As funding becomes available other areas such as the Latent Print Section are going to seek accreditation. In order to comply with accreditation standards, each analyst is required to receive a specified amount of training/career development annually in each discipline in which they conduct analysis and provide testimony. Another area surrounding the training issue is the recommendation for analyst certification. The predominate organization offering certification for analysts in the area of latent prints and footwear examination is the IAI (International Association for Identification). Once the analyst receives certification, there is a specified training requirement over a five year period as part of the recertification process. Currently, one of the Latent Print Examiners is certified through the IAI in the discipline of latent print examination. This analyst currently has not received enough training to maintain his certification for the five year cycle. If the current level of local funding continues other examiners will be unable to seek certification and the one certified examiner will ultimately lose his certification in the discipline of latent print examination.

Since the Latent Print Examiners are also required to be a backup source for the Crime Scene Section, they also need training in crime scene investigation. Current funding levels and the need for first line crime scene investigators to receive this training first almost ensures the latent print examiners will not receive crime scene investigation training.

The lack of current funding for training hurts the skill and ability level of the examiners and the agencies they serve. To combat these funding issues, alternatives have been explored such as on-line classes. Some of these on-line classes are free but many have fees associated. Should additional funding not be granted, the only alternative is for the examiners to pay for advanced training and certifications themselves which is not a desirable alternative.

**COUNTY OF GREENVILLE**  
**Greenville County Forensic Division Improvement**  
**Budget Detail Worksheet**

<b>A. PERSONNEL</b>	N/A	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>B. FRINGE BENEFITS</b>	N/A	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>C. TRAVEL</b>		
<b>Purpose of Travel</b>	<b>Computation</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Staff to Training for certification	2 employees for certification training	
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b><u>\$12,000.00</u></b>
<b>D. EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Computation</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Alternate Light Source	\$13,000 plus shipping (\$350) and SC sales tax (\$801)	\$14,151.00
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b><u>\$14,151.00</u></b>
<b>E. SUPPLIES</b>	N/A	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>F. CONSTRUCTION</b>	N/A	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>G. CONSULTANTS/CONTRACTS</b>	N/A	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>H. OTHER COSTS</b>	N/A	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>I. INDIRECT COSTS</b>	N/A	<u>\$0.00</u>

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

A. Personnel	<u>\$0.00</u>
B. Fringe Benefits	<u>\$0.00</u>
C. Travel	<u>\$12,000.00</u>
D. Equipment	<u>\$14,151.00</u>
E. Supplies	<u>\$0.00</u>
F. Construction	<u>\$0.00</u>
G. Consultants/Contracts	<u>\$0.00</u>
H. Other	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<b><u>\$26,151.00</u></b>
I. Indirect Costs	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b><u>\$26,151.00</u></b>
<b>Federal Amount</b>	<b><u>\$26,151.00</u></b>

**Non-federal Amount**

**\$0.00**