

## Project Details

**Project Title:** County of Greenville - Greenville County Sheriffs Office Medical Unit and Pandemic Response Equipment

**Project Summary (max. 300 characters):** The County of Greenville is seeking funds for the Sheriff's Office to obtain equipment for Deputy/Medic personnel and acquire message/traffic trailer(s) that will allow rapid medic response; monitor/help investigate violent crimes; and traffic coordination/info messaging in event of a pandemic.

**Type of Application:** New

**Year of Funds:** 1

**Other (explain):**

**Program Area:** Greenville County

# Budget

CATEGORIES	GRANTOR	TOTAL
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**PERSONNEL - SALARIES:**

Position Title	Annual Salary/Rate	% of Time On Project
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**TOTAL SALARIES:** \$0 \$0

**EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS (Fringe Benefits)**

Description	Rate	X Base
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Social Security & Medicare (FICA)

Retirement

Workers Compensation Insurance

Unemployment Insurance (on first \$7,000 only)

Health Insurance

Dental Insurance

Pre-Retirement Death Benefit

Accident Death Benefit (Police Officers)

Other Employer Contributions (Itemize)

**TOTAL EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS:** \$0 \$0

**TOTAL PERSONNEL:** \$0 \$0

**CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:**

**(Itemize - DO NOT include professional fees for doctors, psychologists, etc.)**

Description	Cost	Quantity
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\$0 \$0

**TOTAL CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:** \$0 \$0

**TRAVEL:**

**(Itemize-include mileage, airline cost, lodging, per diem, parking, car rental)**

Description	Cost	Quantity
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\$0 \$0

**TOTAL TRAVEL:** \$0 \$0

**EQUIPMENT (\$1,000 or more per Unit):**

**(Itemize - DO NOT USE BRAND NAME. Also, DO NOT include leased, rented items or software)**

Description	Cost	Quantity		
Police Utility Full Size SUV- All Wheel Drive, Pursuit-Rated, with agency standard issued emergency equipment	61953	5	\$309,765	\$309,765
Heart Monitors	40000	5	\$200,000	\$200,000
Suction Units	1000	5	\$5,000	\$5,000
Video Laryngoscopes	2500	5	\$12,500	\$12,500
Mast-mounted variable-message sign's 4' x 8' LED display with speed and customized messaging visible at up to 1,000 feet in a towable, NTCIP- and MUTCD-compliant platform	24000	2	\$48,000	\$48,000
ALPR camera (to be mounted on the requested message trailer)	2500	2	\$5,000	\$5,000
			<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT:</b>	\$580,265 \$580,265
<b>OTHER:</b>				
Description	Cost	Quantity		
Equipment Bags (carry)	450	5	\$2,250	\$2,250
			<b>TOTAL OTHER:</b>	\$2,250 \$2,250
			<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST:</b>	\$582,515 \$582,515

# Budget Narrative

List items under each Budget Category Heading. Explain exactly how each item listed in your budget will be utilized. It is important that the necessity of these items, as they relate to the operation of the project, be established. Dollar amounts DO NOT have to be provided. However, a statement must be included indicating whether or not the law enforcement agency has any unused funds from previous award years, and if so, an explanation with the total amount of unused funds.

The County of Greenville, on behalf of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office who will be the implementing agency, is seeking funding for vehicles and medical equipment in order to meet SCDHEC standards as a Rapid Responder Vehicle for our (5) certified Class 1 Law Enforcement Deputies who are also certified Paramedics. Funding is also being sought for (2) message board trailers, containing speed measuring devices and automatic license plate reader capabilities. This equipment is being requested to aide in the response to the Sars-Cov-2 (Covid 19) pandemic and also to help respond and combat violent crime.

Equipment \$1000 and over:

## Police Utility Full Size SUV

This project is requesting funding to be implemented by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office to purchase (5) Police Utility Full Size SUV- All Wheel Drive, Pursuit-Rated Vehicle with agency standard issued emergency equipment as per South Carolina State Contract Specifications. (Itemized list uploaded in Documents) Due to the amount of law enforcement and medical equipment that would be required to be carried in the vehicle a full size SUV is needed. The Sheriff's Office does not currently have budgeted funds for these full size SUVs, and the deputy/paramedics are currently sharing older vehicles with over 100,000 miles. The full size vehicle would allow for a victim to be extracted from a potential violent scene that an ambulance may not be able to enter and taken to a safe location to be transferred to an ambulance.

## Heart Monitors

This project is requesting funding to be implemented by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office to purchase (5) heart monitors which is required by SCDHEC. A heart monitor would be placed in each vehicle and along with the other requested equipment would meet Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit standards as a Rapid Responder Vehicle. Heart monitors are used on most trauma victims and also used on patients with COVID 19 symptoms.

## Suction Units

This project is requesting funding to be implemented by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office to purchase (5) suction units which is required by SCDHEC. A suction unit would be placed in each vehicle and along with the other requested equipment would meet Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit standards as a Rapid Responder Vehicle. A primary of the suction unit is to keep a trauma victim's airway clear of blood, mucus, saliva, and other substances.

## Video Laryngoscopes

This project is requesting funding to be implemented by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office is requesting funding to purchase (5) video laryngoscopes which would help to ensure successful intubations on patients with airway compromise. A video laryngoscope would be placed in each of these vehicles to further increase their application as a Rapid Responder Vehicle.

## Mast- Mounted Variable-Message Sign

This project is requesting funding to be implemented by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office to purchase (2) Mast-mounted variable-message sign's 4' x 8' LED display with speed and customized messaging visible at up to 1,000 feet in a towable, NTCIP- and MUTCD-compliant platform. These message trailers would be used to provide information and/or directions to communities, pandemic sites, vaccination sites, violent crime areas, in addition to providing traffic safety for these locations. Being portable, these trailers could be rapidly deployed to different locations and moved accordingly as needed. This would give our agency the ability to communicate with specific communities and could provide vital information during critical times.

## ALPR Camera

This project is requesting funding to be implemented by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office to purchase (2) ALPR Cameras (Automatic License Plate Readers) that would be mounted on the portable message trailer that has been requested. APLR would give the our agency the ability to look for known subjects vehicles, stolen vehicles, amber alert vehicles, and other vehicles of interest involved in violent crimes. The database would be able to link in with multiple agencies who already have ALPRs deployed in their jurisdictions.

Other Equipment Less than \$1000:

## Equipment Bags

This project is requesting funding to be implemented by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office to purchase (5) medical equipment bags that are used to carry SCDHEC approved medication and medical supplies. Medical bags would be placed in

each vehicle to carry required medical supplies/items. The Sheriff's Office currently has (3) medical bags in use.

# Program Narrative

**PROBLEM STATEMENT:** First, define the problem exactly as it exists in your particular community. Describe the nature and magnitude of the problem using valid, updated statistical data, and cite the source and date of your information. Prior data may be used to show changes in the magnitude or severity of the problem. Remember to document the problem and not the symptoms or solutions of the problem. Second, identify your existing efforts, current resources and programs being utilized to deal with the problem.

Greenville County is located in the upstate of South Carolina along the Interstate 85 corridor, almost half way between Charlotte, NC and Atlanta, GA. The county encompasses roughly 795 square miles and has the largest population in South Carolina, with an approximate 533,834 residents (Based of July 2021 statistics from Census.Gov). The Greenville County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) employs 538 sworn full time law enforcement officers and serves as the primary law enforcement agency for the unincorporated areas for Greenville County. With the large population of Greenville County, the Greenville County Sheriff's Office has been challenged with managing the Sars-Cov-2 (COVID-19) virus pandemic and managing calls for service to include those dealing with violent crimes.

In March of 2020, Greenville County began to experience the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the pandemic began through April 23,2022 (the most recent numbers per the SC Department of Health and Environment Control website), Greenville County has had 1,666,832 COVID tests administered; 172,688 confirmed cases; 3731 hospitalizations; 1996 deaths as a result of COVID-19. Various test sites were deployed throughout the county, and the Sheriff's Office assisted with traffic control and site security at many locations.

## COVID-19 effect on Greenville County Sheriff's Office

Due to the large number of cases, the Sheriff's Office personnel soon began to get sick which resulted in agency staffing issues. Despite vaccination and isolation precautions, nearly 200 law enforcement officers from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office have contracted COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic. Due to this, agency leaders sought guidance from their internal Medical Services Unit which is comprised of Deputies who are also Paramedics. The GCSO Medical Services Unit is recognized as an Advanced Life Support – Rapid Responder agency by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control Bureau of EMS. Currently, it is the only law enforcement agency in the State of South Carolina that meets the stringent requirements. By meeting these requirements, the Sheriff's Office operates three (3) patrol vehicles which are equipped and authorized to provide Advanced Life Support level medical care. These vehicles are currently operated by eight (8) certified Law Enforcements Officers who also hold Paramedic certifications from DHEC-Bureau of EMS.

## COVID-19 timeline [Greenville County Sheriff's Office]

- March 2020: Public Safety test site was established by Department of Health & Environmental Control [DHEC]
- July 2020: GCSO Medical Unit personnel began assessing and screening individuals prior to testing in an effort to decrease the time spent in the public safety test site. A total of 483 public safety personnel were screened between July 2020 and September 2021.
- September 2021: Public safety test sites continued to be overwhelmed. The Sheriff's Office Medical Services Unit was approved as a stand-alone COVID-19 test site by DHEC. Since that time, GCSO Deputy/Paramedics have assessed and administered COVID-19 tests to an additional 743 public safety personnel.

On multiple occasions during the pandemic, we encountered public safety personnel who were symptomatic to the point that they were unable to ambulate to a vehicle and be transported to our established testing sites. When these situations were identified, a Deputy/Paramedic responded using with one of the three (3) licensed vehicles to the public safety personnel's home residence where they were assessed, tested and medically treated (if needed).

## COVID-19 nexus to violent crime within Greenville County

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020 through May 2, 2022, the Greenville County Sheriff's Office has dispatched 459,699 calls for service. Of these calls, 4702 were calls involving weapons and 6164 were calls involving assaults (statistics from GCSO CAD). As a result of the calls for service related to violent crimes, 68 resulted in homicides (GCSO Criminal Investigative Division statistics). Eleven (11) of those 68 homicides actually occurred in the first four months of 2022 while only 27 total occurred in entire year of 2021. This 'spike' in violent crime directly coincides with the last variant of COVID-19 illness as 467 of the 743 total COVID tests were administered in the first two months of 2022.

Public crime statistics indicate that violent crimes (as defined by SC Code of Laws 16-1-60) have a higher frequency of occurrence within several specific geographical areas within Greenville County. Typically, these same areas also have a higher incidence of general calls for service. These factors combined with the staffing issues experienced due to COVID-19 illness not only hinder the

investigative aspect of these crimes but also any preventative measures by law enforcement. Investigative tools such as portable Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR) would be of great investigative assistance. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office lacks the ability to deploy portable message boards which can be used to provide contact information for potential witnesses to report information that they have regarding a particular violent crime. Greenville County has a growing homeless population (approximately 3,600 was last reported in the Greenville Journal report 2021) which do not generally have access to the news or social platforms of other citizens.

With an approximate yearly average of 2050 calls involving weapons and 2600 assault calls, the Sheriff's Office personnel encounters many victims of violent crimes. Since traditional pre-hospital medical personnel (EMS) typically stages (or waits in a secure location) until the scene can be rendered 'safe' by law enforcement personnel, these victims typically experience a delay in medical care being provided. Therefore, the Sheriff's Office personnel are tasked frequently with providing initial medical care to victims of these violent crimes. Additionally, the local EMS service has been impacted by COVID-19 related staffing issues and increased call demand resulting in the Sheriff's Office responding to more medical request for assistance calls - approximately 10, 976 requests within this past year alone. In response to the increased medical assistance need, the Greenville County Sheriff's Office began utilizing the eight (8) certified Deputy/Paramedics in a medical role. These Deputy/ Paramedics are trained to give the same triage and Advanced Life Support level medical care as these victims would receive from a paramedic on an ambulance. However, being a certified law enforcement officer, they are often one of the first medical units to arrive at a scene – enabling them to enter, assess and begin treatment prior to the scene being secure.

Since the inception of the GCSO Medical Services Unit and the implementation of the dual-role Deputy/Paramedic last year, there have been several notable incidents where victims of violent crimes received expedited medical care.

- In 2021, a Deputy/ Paramedic was one of the first units on the scene of a stabbing victim who received a significant laceration to their neck which damaged major arteries. The Deputy/Paramedic was able to provide lifesaving bleeding control measures and coordinated an early alert for a blood response which enabled the victim to receive blood products prior to the arrival at the hospital ER.
- In March 2022, Greenville County unfortunately experienced an active shooter situation in a middle school. A Deputy/Paramedic arrived within minutes of the call to provide treatment and coordinate the patient care/extraction on a young shooting victim. This victim received initial care and was extracted from the scene within 4 minutes of the Deputy/Paramedic's arrival. This resulted in this victim being transferred to an ambulance and leaving the scene while receiving blood products within 8 minutes of that Deputy/Paramedic's initial arrival.
- In April 2022, a random shooting in a public park resulted in two teenage gunshot victims – one of which was shot in the neck and back. A Deputy/Paramedic was again the first medical care provider as the scene was active and the exact location of the shooter(s) was unknown. This victim was also extracted from the scene after receiving lifesaving care and transferred to an ambulance within minutes of the Deputy/Paramedic's arrival.

These success stories demonstrate that the concept of dual-role, Deputy/Paramedics is successful not only for a pandemic response but also greatly assists victims of violent crimes. Unfortunately, our program has some significant logistical limitations. As mentioned earlier, we only have enough equipment to support three (3) Deputy/Paramedics despite the fact that our agency currently employs eight (8) individuals who possess the required training and certifications. In order to combat this, we recently implemented a program that involves vehicle sharing/swapping. While this change enabled us to double our medical unit staffing hours (moving from 80 staffing hours to 160 staffing hours per week), it has created a situation where our aging vehicle fleet (over half of the fleet has in excess of 140,000 miles) is constantly in use with no 'down' time. There are also many times during high demand hours that multiple calls related to violent crimes are received and while a Deputy/Paramedic is available to respond, there is unfortunately no vehicle appropriately equipped and licensed as an ALS response vehicle available.

Despite the positive results seen through this limited implementation, our agency has not been able to secure funding through the budget process for the needed investigative tools or medical equipment needed to better combat violent crimes in the county.

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** First, describe the broad goals of your project. Then describe a specific plan for conducting the project and a rationale for the tasks and activities to be employed to address the problem outlined above.

The project goals for the Greenville County Sheriff's Office are to better serve the needs of local public safety agencies in the event that another COVID-19 variant/infectious disease pandemic occurs. Due to the nexus of violent crimes and the effects of a pandemic, the implementation of this project will provide additional medical resources for the victims of violent crimes within Greenville County.

GCSO Project Implementation Plan:

- (1) To properly outfit and equip five (5) additional DHEC-approved Rapid Responder vehicles.

The Greenville County Sheriff's Office plan to accomplish goal (1) would be order/purchase the vehicles and equipment listed in the budget narrative, upon award notification. Once all of the requisitioned items from this project have arrived, Rapid

Responder Vehicle certification through SC DHEC would be obtained (the required equipment for this certification is outlined on SCDHEC Form 3508 and has been uploaded in the Documents section, titled Rapid Responder Vehicle Inspection Report). On this form, there are 77 required items. The Sheriff's Office is currently funding items 1 -68, and the remaining items needed be purchased are listed in the budget narrative. Once SCDHEC approval is granted, these units will be placed into service as a Rapid Responder Vehicle and will be able to respond to violent crime and various trauma scenes which require immediate medical assistance. The plan is for the Rapid Responder Vehicles, operated by Deputy/Paramedics, to respond and enter scenes to provide ALS care that may not be secured for non-law enforcement personnel. These vehicles and equipment would also be utilized to respond to respond and conduct COVID related assessments and/or tests/treatments to any public safety agencies within Greenville County that has employees impacted by COVID illness.

(2) To purchase two (2) portable message board trailers that would provide traffic safety and/or important COVID-19/pandemic response message broadcasts to the communities.

The Greenville County Sheriff's Office plan to accomplish goal (2) would be order/purchase two message board trailers equipped with speed measuring capabilities and automatic license plate reading capabilities as listed in the budget narrative. In the event of a pandemic, these message board trailers would be utilized to request information and/or broadcast information for the safety of the community. Additionally, these trailers would be outfitted with ALPR technology and utilized in known violent crime areas to assist in the prompt identification and location of known violent criminal vehicles. The plan, after proper polices are in order, is to place these trailer units in areas of previously known violent crimes and problematic areas to monitor traffic and vehicles of known violent crime offenders. In the event of another pandemic and/or large vaccination sites, the plan is to use them to broadcast information /directions and monitor speed in and around these sites.

The plan is to have both of these goals implemented and fully operational within 3 months of funding begin awarded. It should be noted that all personnel, agency licensing and training requirements are already funded and operational in regards to the Rapid Responder vehicles. Complete project implementation timeline related to this item could be reduced pending availability of requested equipment. In regards to the message board trailers, the plan would be to implement a policy on the operation and use of the message board trailer prior to deploying the unit which could easily be accomplished within the project timeline.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):** Objectives are specific, quantified statements of expected results of the project. The objectives must be described in terms of measurable events that can be realistically expected under time constraints and resources. Objective must be related to the Problem Statement and Project Purpose outlined above.

- 1) To have an appropriate, corresponding increase in the response capability to COVID-19 related calls for service.
- 2) To have an appropriate, corresponding increase in number of violent crime victims that are initially evaluated/treated by Deputy/Paramedics during an unsecure scene.
- 3) To increase the Sheriff's Office ability to disseminate information during pandemic occurrences.
- 4) To increase the Sheriff's Office ability to track and locate violent crime suspects during spike pandemic occurrences.

**PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S):** State exactly how each objective will be measured. **Performance indicators must be matched to each program objective listed above** (i.e., if there are 5 objectives then there must be 5 corresponding performance indicators). Performance indicators are based on quantitative (numbers) and qualitative (opinions organized in meaningful ways) data gathering procedures which evaluate and document your project.

- 1) Deputy/Paramedics will maintain statistics on COVID-19 related responses. These statistics will be compared to the year previous COVID-19 pandemic period.
- 2) Deputy/Paramedics will maintain statistics regarding responses to provide initial medical aid to violent crime victims. These statistics will be compared to the spike in violent crime in Greenville County which occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3) Assemble and maintain records (to include location, time and relayed message) of all message board deployments during another COVID-19 spike or pandemic.
- 4) Assemble and maintain records regarding to the ability track and locate violent crime suspects during another COVID-19 spike or pandemic.

**PROJECT EVALUATION:** This requirement is to: (1) establish an evaluation plan or process to assess the impact of your project on the drug and violent crime problem in your jurisdiction, (2) conduct the evaluation during the grant funded period, and (3) submit a formal written evaluation report at the close of the grant period. The purpose of evaluating each project is to assess how well it



has been implemented in your jurisdiction and to assess the extent to which the activities funded have achieved the project's goals. The plan or process must describe how the evaluation will be accomplished and must describe the range of activities that will serve as vehicles for obtaining general qualitative and specific quantitative information. **The plan or process must be completed and submitted on this page.**

The project will be evaluated by determining the degree to which the goals and objectives of the grant were met. Statistical information will be compared to the years prior, and the objectives will be evaluated to determine if they were met and to what degree. The Project Director will evaluate the project periodically throughout the grant period to determine any shortfalls or obstacles. Strategies will be updated to ensure the goals and objectives are met.