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Contact Information

Organization Name *
Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office

Contact Information

First Name *
Elizabeth

Last Name *
Signorotti

Phone *
2813418573

Email *
elizabeth.signorotti@fortbend.tx.gov

Department Address

Address Line 1 *
1840 Richmond Parkway

Address Line 2

City *
Richmond

State
Texas

Postal Code *
77469

Shipping Address (If different from Department Address, must be able to receive packages.)

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

City
State
Please select...

Postal Code

[Next Page](#)

Request Information

Type of Request *

- Equipment
 Training
 Other

Items Requested

Start Pac Ground Power Unit (GPU), 2 Startsticks, 2 Startstick bags

Total Request Amount *

13450.14

Quote/Invoice 1 *

OTC_Quote-_433.pdf Upload a different file

Quote/Invoice 2

Q7821.pdf Upload a different file

Quote/Invoice 3

Startstick-Data-Sheet-10521.pdf Upload a different file

Quote/Invoice 4

Choose File No file chosen

Please explain your need for this equipment. *

Fort Bend County Sheriff Office's (FBCSO) Helicopter Unit has two 50+ year old helicopters that patrol our 862 square mile county. The Unit conducts two daily patrol flights and in addition responds to calls for service, which include searches, missing or wanted persons, narcotics investigations, alarms, in-progress calls, and flights during natural disasters. The Unit flies roughly 450 hours per year and responds to 650-700 calls for service annually. The two helicopters are old and require regular--and costly--maintenance and upkeep, and a significant expense includes replacing the batteries every other year. Each battery costs, at present, roughly \$3000, and we expect this price to rise given the current inflation level. With an annual budget of approximately \$40,000, battery replacement constitutes almost 7.5% of the unit's annual budget. Battery life, however, can be extended through the use of a Start Pac and the Startsticks. The Start Pac is a piece of equipment that will be located at the hangar that houses the Helicopter Unit, and it allows for starting the helicopter, which draws approximately 24 volts per start, to be started without the use of the helicopter battery. The Startsticks (one per helicopter) are used to assist starting in the field, when the helicopters are away from the hangar. According to FBCSO's pilots, the use of a Start Pac and Startsticks



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Community and Impact Information

Name of Community/Communities Served *

Fort Bend County (primary) Harris, Wharton, and Brazoria Counties

Population(s) Served

Primary Population Total *

882,509

Secondary (Mutual Aid) Population Total

5,245,282

Impact Area(s)

Primary Impact Area (sq. mi.) *

861.72

Secondary Impact Area (sq. mi.)

4,156.43

Calls Responded To

Calls Responded To (annual average)

650 - 700

Attached are two budgets: the first is the Sheriff Office's Enforcement Budget, from which comes the Helicopter Unit's allocation, and the second is the Helicopter Unit's year-to-date expenditures. The Helicopter Unit is generally allocated \$40,000 for maintenance and repairs, and as the YTD expenditures show, this year they are severely over budget. Because of inflation, which is affecting everything from gas prices to replacement or repair cost for parts and equipment, and because our helicopter units are aging, we are spending more than our projected/budgeted expenses. The Sheriff's Office receives its funding at the behest of Fort Bend County, the second wealthiest County in Texas, but which increasingly is allocating funds elsewhere. In fact, our budget continues to shrink, and this is one reason for our request from the Gary Sinsie Foundation. The Helicopter Unit receives monies from the SO's Enforcement budget and from the SO's Seized Assets. One helicopter is supported through Enforcement, the other through Seized Assets, but fuel costs for both helicopters come from Enforcement. Fuel costs are higher this year than in previous

Budget Documents

Budget Document 1 *

Enforcement Budget.pdf

Budget Document 2

Helicopter Expenses.xlsx

Budget Document 3

No file chosen

Number of Personnel in Department *

Employer ID Number (EIN) (xx-xxxxxxx) *

Is your organization a Non-Profit 501(c)3 or 501 (c)4?

- Yes
 No

Is your department fully volunteer?

- Yes
 No