

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**HENDERSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** July 6, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Digital Radio Grant

**ATTACHMENTS:** Yes

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office requests that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners approve the attached grant application for federal assistance for the purchase of portable digital radios. The application would be submitted through the Department of Justice, and does not involve any County funding.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Board is requested to approve the application for submission to the Department of Justice.

**Suggested Motion:**

*I move the Board approve the attached grant application for submission.*

<b>APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE</b>		2. DATE SUBMITTED	Applicant Identifier
1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION  Application Non-Construction	3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE		State Application Identifier
	4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY		Federal Identifier
<b>5. APPLICANT INFORMATION</b>			
Legal Name  Henderson County		Organizational Unit  Sheriff's Department	
Address  201 North Main Street Hendersonville, North Carolina 28792-5072		Name and telephone number of the person to be contacted on matters involving this application  Player, Bobbie (828) 694-2706	
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN)  56-6000307		7. TYPE OF APPLICANT  County	
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION  New		9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY  Bureau of Justice Assistance	
10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE  NUMBER: 16.580 CFDA TITLE: Byrne Discretionary Program		11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT  Digital Kenwood Radios	
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT  Henderson County, Laurel Park, Fletcher, Flat Rock, Saluda, Mills River, NC			
13. PROPOSED PROJECT Start Date: July 01, 2009 End Date: June 30, 2010		14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF  a. Applicant b. Project NC11	
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING		16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?  Program is not covered by E.O. 12372	
Federal	\$12,291		
Applicant	\$0		
State	\$0		
Local	\$0		
Other	\$0		
Program Income	\$0	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?	
TOTAL	\$12,291	N	

18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED.

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## **Program Narrative**

The purpose of this proposal is to request funding for portable digital radios. Migration to a digital system would provide the Sheriff's Office benefits including increased coverage, secure communications, spectrum efficient and compliant with Federal recommendations, and interoperable with legacy equipment.

Increased coverage comes with digital technology transmissions providing greater range than comparable analog transmissions. Communication signals are more reliable due to a decrease in static that is present on marginal analog transmissions. Officer safety is increased due to better coverage and clarity of communications.

Digital technology is not capable of being "eavesdropped" on by the majority of existing household scanners. The system possesses encryption capability that allows for secure transmissions between users. The System Radio validation allows only approved radios to be used on the system. Lost or stolen radios can be remotely disabled to prevent unauthorized access. This allows for increased officer safety due to secure communications.

The system uses the latest 6.25 kHz digital technology meeting the FCC recommendations for narrow banding and digital technology. This frees up existing spectrum allowing for a more efficient use of spectrum. Due to the very narrow bandwidth, it allows for easier coordination of frequencies.

The digital system is interoperable with legacy equipment. The equipment can operate in digital and analog modes at the same time allowing for a progressive migration. These radios work with existing digital and analog technology current utilized by surrounding counties aiding in interoperability among different agencies.

The current department owned radios are antiquated and ineffective. It is not feasible to try to fix one when it breaks. It is very difficult to obtain parts to maintain their performance; therefore, it simply is not cost effective to keep them. The current radios have proven to be very unreliable. It is essential for officer safety to maintain dependable radios in order to allow quick response in the event of emergency back up.

In the current economic situation, budget cuts have restricted the planning for replacing the radios with state of the art digital radios. Since the department cannot upgrade the entire system at this time, plans are in place to purchase new radios as time allows. There are plans to purchase twenty radios in this next year's budget with hopes of acquiring more through the award of grant funds.

GOAL: To purchase digital radios that will be used in the field

OBJECTIVE #1: To increase coverage with digital technology that provides greater range transmissions.

OBJECTIVE #2: To increase officer safety using encrypted communications that prevents “eavesdropping” by household scanners.

OBJECTIVE #3: To meet FCC recommendations, which frees up existing spectrum allowing for greater efficiency.