

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: FY 2016 BVP Grant

DATE OF MEETING: April 13, 2015

BUDGET IMPACT: Reimbursed 100%

FUNDING SOURCE

- Annual Splost
 Capital USDOJ
 N/A

- Regular Meeting (X)
Work Session (X)
Recommendation ()
Policy/Discussion ()
Report ()
Other ()

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED: Approval for Sheriff's Office to provide 149 Deputies with body armor under the US Department Of Justice program.

HISTORY, FACTS, AND ISSUES: The ever increasing cost to provide each law enforcement officer with body armor is exorbitant. The most important piece of equipment is also the most expensive piece that Deputies need personally. All vests are tested and must exceed strict safety standards through the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). Level IIIA body armor, which is provided to the Deputies in Lowndes County, varies in price from \$600 to \$1500. Since they equally comply with NIJ standards, the price is adjusted based on the following factors; #1 How much surface area is protected. #2 Quality of the armor to at least protect for five years. #3 Quality of the shell to protect the armor, resist wear, and provide comfort. #4 The weight and thickness of the shell and armor. Any one of these factors will determine whether a Deputy request to be provided with a vest and then actually wears it at least twelve hours (7:00 am – 7:00 pm) a day. Since this a safety factor that affects whether a Deputy lives or dies from a gun, the Sheriff's Office has issued a mandatory wear policy. We ask the Lowndes County Board Of Commission for their blessing to provide safe, high quality body armor that is comfortable to wear. To meet this appeal, the Sheriff's Office is seeking a matched funds grant from the USDOJ Bulletproof Vest Partnership. This three year grant will provide 50% matched funds that are reimbursed through the USDOJ for 142 active Deputies, and approximately 18 future Deputies. The total of 160 vests will be \$160,000 with USDOJ reimbursing \$80,000.

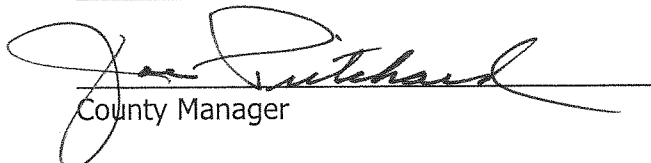
OPTIONS: Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: Sheriff's Office

Department Head: Chris Prine

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION:


County Manager

Action Taken By Board: _____