

Mark Dannels
Sheriff

Thad Smith
Chief Deputy

Office of the Sheriff Cochise County



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office requests the amount of \$219,211.87 to purchase equipment to be utilized by specialty units from the agency in efforts to combat, reduce, and ultimately eradicate illegal human and drug smuggling in our communities.

This request is in reference to the Border Security Trust Fund to be utilized to construct and maintain a virtual or physical fence to secure the State of Arizona's borders.

I. SITUATION

A. General Situation:

Cochise County Arizona is 6,215 square miles in land mass and shares 83 miles of international border with the Republic of Mexico. Cochise County has a significant history of smuggling activity dating back to the 1880's that continues to this day. With the implementation of operations, "Hold the Line" in Texas and "Gatekeeper" in California in early 1994, the actions taken created a funnel effect pushing Cochise County into the location of choice for border crossings by illegal aliens, human smuggling activity, and drug smuggling. The flow of illegal aliens through Cochise County has resulted in increased peripheral criminal activity such as home invasion robberies, burglaries, auto theft, and damage to property, and the proclivity of massive alien smuggling has long given concern that terrorists may choose this route to infiltrate the United States.

Another significant law enforcement concern is the fact that illegal aliens are prime targets for robbery, sexual assault, and kidnapping for ransom. In addition to the victimization of the illegal aliens, they tend to have no understanding of the inclement weather in the desert and high mountain areas in Cochise County thus creating innumerable cases of dehydration, hypothermia, and/or death.

Stolen vehicles tend to be the transportation of choice for smuggling operations and by utilizing stolen vehicles taken in major metropolitan areas such as Phoenix and Tucson, the smugglers are able to travel to Cochise County, pick up their cargo and leave either North, East, or West most times before the vehicle is even reported as stolen. The ingress and egress of the county is through two separate International Ports of Entry, one Interstate Freeway (I-10), five State Highways, and numerous county roads both improved and unimproved, which provides a ready means of transshipment for smugglers.

B. Terrain/Weather:

Cochise County is comprised of several different climate zones ranging from high desert grasslands to pine covered mountains. There are six mountain ranges within Cochise County of varying sizes and elevations, the tallest being just over 9700 feet, with large flat valleys between the ranges. The temperatures in Cochise County range in the upper 80's to over 100 degrees during the summer months, and in the low 40's to 50's in the winter months. The evenings and nights are significantly cooler regardless of the time of year and the rainy season known as "Monsoon" exhibits torrential rainfall, thunderstorms, hail, high winds, and lightning. Illegal aliens have died as a result of exposure to these elements, which include those who have perished in flash floods and being struck by lightning.

C. Criminal Element:

There are several smuggling organizations operating on both sides of the International border. These organizations typically are involved in both human and drug smuggling. As security along the International border has been strengthened by United States Border Patrol, greater resistance to apprehension has been presented by the smuggling operation. This resistance has manifested itself in assaults on officers; ranging from the physical to the deadly; and in high speed vehicle pursuits. It is common practice for the smugglers to utilize encrypted radios and cellular telephones to communicate among themselves and it is not unusual for the "load" vehicles to be escorted by scout vehicles and armed security. The smugglers utilize a variety of weapons to include machineguns, and employ body armor, night vision scopes, and scanners to monitor law enforcement. When smugglers become aware of law enforcement moving in on them, they typically make all effort to flee back across the border often resulting in high speed pursuits that endanger not only those involved, but the unsuspecting citizens as well.

D. Friendly Forces:

There are two International Ports of Entry in Cochise County, one in Naco and the second in Douglas. There are three United States Border Patrol (USBP) stations located in Douglas, Naco, and Willcox respectively. In addition to the Arizona Department of Public Safety (Highway Patrol) there are seven municipal police departments within the County. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Drug Enforcement Agency all operate offices within Cochise County. In addition, Fort Huachuca, a United States Army Installation, deploys both Military Police and Department of Defense Security Police. The Sheriff's Office also works cooperatively with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, the Hidalgo County (NM) Sheriff's Office, and the Graham County Sheriff's Office as well as with the Mexican Consular as needed.

II. MISSION

The overall mission of the operation of the Cochise County Sheriff's Office in the fight against illegal human and drug smuggling is to detect and apprehend human and drug smuggling cargos; to deter criminal activity peripheral to those activities; and to impair the smugglers ability to utilize the roadways within the County for their smuggling operations. Secondly the mission of this operation is to reduce the impact of alien victimization by human predators and the elements

III. CONCEPT/EXECUTION

It is the understanding of the Cochise County Sheriff's Office the US Government, specifically the USBP, is charged with the security of the countries International Borders. However, this agency believes we have a duty to further assist the USBP with their charged mission to guard and defend the citizens of Cochise County from those who illegally enter the country and/or those who would take advantage of these people illegally entering the country.

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office is of the opinion the USBP has done a considerable job in placing an actual and "virtual" fence on the border to deter most offenders from illegal entering the country. However, there are still numerous individuals illegally crossing into our country. It is our belief the funding available to build a border fence, actual or virtual, would be better spent to purchase equipment for the "boots on the ground" elements within our county to further fortify security measures that already exist.

Although a border fence provides some defense against unwanted intrusions, when they (intrusions) occur, having forces to respond to the areas that are compromised is essential to the mission. Further, these forces need to be well equipped to locate and apprehend those who choose to not follow the laws and rules of our nation and enter the country illegally.

The Sheriff's Office believes our "virtual fence" should be moveable or "fluid", meaning the equipment and forces should be able to adapt to the changing flows of traffic and locations of the traffic; as the criminal element traveling into our country and state uses different paths, trails, and roadways to move north into the country.

The only way for a fence, real or virtual, to work is to have law enforcement elements in the locations that are/were compromised to catch and/or deter travelers illegally entering the country. If we were to utilize this funding to place permanent fences, real or virtual, the ability to adapt, change, and ultimately catch the criminal element when they change their tactics would be nonexistent.

The smuggling organizations south of the border have found ways to alter their criminal activity every time law enforcement develops new technology and techniques to detect and deter their activities. In the fight against illegal immigration and drug smuggling, law enforcement efforts have mostly been permanent deterrents like fences and posted camera poles; to which the criminal element have found ways to conceal and continue their activities. By providing our personnel with equipment they can use to detect individuals illegally crossing our borders, these would be able to move where additional resources are needed to stop and deter the illegal flow of humans and/or drugs.

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office will utilize the funding from the Border Security Trust Fund to purchase equipment to be used by our Southeast Arizona Border Region Enforcement Team (SABRE) and our Ranch Patrol to assist the USBP in their efforts to secure the Arizona/Mexico border. The equipment purchased would make the deployments of these units more effective to locate the abovementioned offenders to apprehend and deport them back to the countries they originate from.

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office SABRE unit was started in 2013, and their primary objective is to focus on border related crimes that impact the citizens of Cochise County. They are a 9 person unit comprised of 3 Sheriff Deputies, 4 Border Patrol agents and 2 Department of Public Safety officers. They deploy in remote areas of Cochise County, usually on the border or several miles therein, and conduct interdiction operations on illegal human and drug smuggling.

The Cochise County Ranch Patrol was also activated in 2013. Their main purpose is to be a liaison between the Sheriff to the ranching and agriculture communities. They also provide intelligence gathered from these communities to SABRE in order to combat illegal human and drug smuggling.

Every year, the Cochise County Sheriff's Office responds to calls for service from citizens in our communities who report they have been burglarized by either the smugglers themselves and/or the human "cargo" the smugglers are escorting into the country. Some of these crimes were committed as the illegal aliens sought shelter due to the inclement weather, and others were committed as a means to gather money or property to further their journey into the country.

Also, our agency takes calls from service from those traveling illegally into our state who report they were assaulted, (physically and/or sexually) by the smugglers they paid to assist them in entering our country.

By purchasing the below listed equipment, the aforementioned elements would be able to better augment the barriers already in place on or near the border, further fortifying our states security against the illegal entry into our country.

III. BUDGET #1

Administration/Logistics/Budget Request	Narrative Justification (Computation of Items)	Funding Request
Equipment Global Positioning Systems (GPS)	(2)Garmin Rino 2.6" handheld Global Positioning Systems (GPS) @ \$599.00	\$1,199.88
Equipment Binoculars	(2) Swarovski SLC 15x56 HD Binoculars @ \$2,499.00	\$4,990.00
Equipment Handheld Thermal Imaging Camera	(6) FLIR Systems HS-307 Patrol 65mm Handheld Thermal Imaging Camera @\$8,929.00	\$53,574.00
Equipment DiaScope	(1) Zeiss Victory FL DiaScope 65T FL angled with Vario 15-56x Eyepiece @ \$3,198.99	\$3,198.99
Equipment Thermal Binocular	(1) FLIR Recon V with remote kit @ \$156, 249.00	\$156, 249.00
Total		\$219,211.87

IV. CONCLUSION

If approved, the Cochise County Sheriff's Office will purchase and employ the above listed equipment immediately to combat the illegal flow of drugs and human smuggling into the state and our country. In utilizing the listed equipment, it would give the men and women who have a passion to serve our country, state, and local community tools to fight the criminal elements who refuse to follow the laws and rules of the State of Arizona in regards to entering the country illegally.

**Office of the Sheriff
Cochise County**



Mark J. Dannels
Sheriff
Thad J. Smith
Chief Deputy

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Attn: Sandy Reilly

Re: Border Security Trust Fund

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office is requesting \$219,211.87 from the Border Security Trust Fund; to purchase equipment to be utilized by the CCSD Specialty Units in assisting with combating, reducing and ultimately eradicating illegal human and drug smuggling in Cochise County.

This request comes as a result of the actions taken by the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee on November 9, 2015; in which the Committee approved the \$219,211.87 transfer of funds to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office from the Border Security Trust Fund.

Attached is a copy of the original Executive Summary, previously submitted to the Border Security Trust Fund.

If you have any questions or issues with this request, please contact Lieutenant Ken Foster at 520.432.9533/DFoster@cochise.az.gov OR Commander Tom Alinen at 520.432.9505/TAlinen@cochise.az.gov.

On behalf of Cochise County, Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rea Anne Servia,
Administrative Manager
520.432.9515
rservia@cochise.az.gov

STATE OF ARIZONA REMITTANCE ADVICE

WARRANT NO.
217619898

AGY: SNA

AGENCY CONTACT: Sandy Reilly

602-926-3230

INVOICE NO.	INVOICE DT.	INVOICE DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT/LINE NO.	INVOICE AMT.	DISCOUNT AMT.	NET AMT.
			GAX, SNA, 2SN16213 / 1	\$219,211.87	\$0.00	\$219,211.87

IF REMITTANCE ADVICE ABOVE IS BLANK, SEE [HTTP://WWW.VENPAY.GAO.AZDOA.GOV/](http://www.venpay.gao.azdoa.gov/) FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

EVER WONDER WHERE YOUR PAYMENT FROM THE STATE IS? OR, WHICH STATE AGENCY PAID YOU THROUGH DIRECT DEPOSIT/ACH? VISIT OUR VENDOR PAYMENT WEBSITE, [HTTP://WWW.VENPAY.GAO.AZDOA.GOV/](http://www.venpay.gao.azdoa.gov/).



VENDOR NAME: COCHISE COUNTY

ISSUE DATE:

WARRANT AMOUNT:

VENDOR ID: PZ000007901

04/13/2016

\$219,211.87

FOLD OR SEPARATE AT COURED LINE BELOW

STATE OF ARIZONA

NOT GOOD AFTER
VOID DATE SHOWN

91-113
1221

DATE ISSUED
MO-DAY-YR
04/13/2016

VOID AFTER
MO-DAY-YR
10/10/2016

BANK
21

WARRANT NO.
7619898

DEPARTMENT
SNA

DOCUMENT ID
160000470636

PAY THIS AMOUNT

\$219,211.87

TWO HUNDRED NINETEEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED ELEVEN AND 87/100 DOLLARS

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

COCHISE COUNTY
COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFFS OFC
205 N JUDD DR
BISBEE AZ 85603



Gay C Brown
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Douglas A. Duany
COUNTERSIGNED GOVERNOR

PAYABLE THRU STATE SERVICING BANK OF STATE TREASURER OF ARIZONA

⑈ 7619898 ⑈ ⑆ 122101133⑆ 0000000000 21 ⑈

