



To: Budget Committee/Blount County Commission
From: Angelie Shankle, Finance Manager Sheriff's Office
CC: Fin. Dir. Brian Baldwin, Mayor Ed Mitchell
Date: 10/27/2022
Re: COPS grant award (Community Policing Oriented Services)

Budget Committee Members and Commissioners,

The Sheriff's Office has been awarded a COPS grant for 3 new deputies. We came to you in July, requesting permission to apply for the grant. We originally requested 6 new deputies in the grant application, but received an award for 3, for which we are incredibly grateful. We are now coming to you to appropriate the award monies. It is a 3 year grant and provides \$375,000 over 3 years, or \$125,000 per year.

It pays a maximum of \$125,000 per deputy over the 3 year term (or \$41,667/yr/deputy), to go toward salary and benefits only. The County is responsible for the remaining. After the 3 years, the Sheriff's Office/County will absorb the full cost of the 3 positions. Based upon today's starting salary, and assuming all 3 deputies elect full benefit coverage, the cost to the County over those 3 years will be \$193,254.

The amendment before you covers the 3 positions for the remainder of this budget year, beginning January 1, 2023, to allow time for onboarding. For the remainder of the grant, we will include the expense and revenue in the requested budget. Again, over the 3 year term, the grant will fund \$375,000, and the County \$193,254.

If you elect to appropriate these grants funds and allow us to hire 3 new deputies, we will be bringing another budget item to you next month, requesting monies out of the General County Fund Balance, to cover the cost of 3 new patrol vehicles, which will be needed for these new hires. We respectfully request your consideration of these items.

Thank you,
Angelie Shankle