

Senator Wicker FY25 CJS CDS Requests

Deadline: May 1, 2024

***Please refer to the bottom of this document for account specific information.**

Subcommittee: **CJS**

Account: **Justice-COPS**

Project Name: **Interoperable Regional Emergency Communications Array and Tower Technologies**

Justification/Project Purpose: This new Interoperable Regional Emergency Communications Array and Tower will be strategically placed to eliminate several major communication coverage “dead zones” for law enforcement vehicles and first responders’ handheld radio units in George County. This project will dramatically improve response times to reach residents in rural areas and benefits the overall safety for first responders. The project’s new coverage area will also allow the Sheriff’s Department, Volunteer Fire Departments, and First Responders to effectively use just one handheld unit instead of currently carrying three radios units to a scene. In addition, the project’s interoperability will significantly expand the State’s MSWIN coverage throughout South Mississippi for all state emergency agencies and surrounding counties (Jackson, Stone, Perry, and Greene).

Project Website: <https://www.georgecountymys.com/newsletter.html>

Project Detail: The project’s objective is to eliminate dead zones in George County’s emergency communication system for the safety of residents, law enforcement and first responders. The requested funds will cover the vast majority of estimated project costs including; engineering design, communications equipment, computer hard/software, tower construction, array installation, and coverage testing. The project has not received CDS funding in FY 2022 or 2023; however, in FY 2024, George County received a \$1,100,000 CDS COPS equipment grant for 911 Dispatch Communication Technologies. This proposed project is distinct and separate from the earlier grant in that it will eliminate communication dead zones and provide regional benefits. The George County Board of Supervisors and Sheriffs office will operate and maintain the project overtime.

Brief description as it relates to Mississippi (if applicable): The George County Board of Supervisors with and through the County Sherrif have been proactive in engaging with all relevant State and County Law Enforcement and EMS agencies. Interoperability is critical to the strong support for the project from the George County EMA Office, local ambulance provider, and George County Volunteer Firefighters Association. Similar outreach will be extended to key agencies in neighboring Jackson, Stone, Perry, and Greene Counties.

Other Congressional offices receiving this request: **Senator Hyde-Smith and Congressman Ezell**

Requested Amount for FY2025: **\$1,600,000**

Total Project Cost: **\$1,600,000**

Submit to Sebastian Paez: Sebastian_paez@wicker.senate.gov; Deadline May 1

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Location of Activity: **George County, MS**

Project Recipient Information

Entity receiving funding: **George County Board of Supervisors and George County Sheriff**

Entity's Federal Tax Employer Identification Number (EIN): **64-6000376**

POC Name (cannot be lobbyist): **Ken Flanagan**

Phone Number: **601-530-2829**

Address: **355 Cox St., Suite E, Lucedale, MS 39452**

Email: kflanagan@georgecountymys.gov

CDS Account Specific Information

DOJ Byrne Discretionary

The Subcommittee will accept CDS requests for Byrne Discretionary projects. Projects should provide additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice systems. CDS requests funded in a final bill will be subject to the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 and the DOJ Grants Financial Guide. Allowable costs are those costs consistent with the principles set out in the 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E, and those permitted by the grant program's authorizing legislation. To be allowable under Federal awards, costs must be reasonable, allocable, and necessary to the project, and they must also comply with the funding statute and agency requirements. This funding cannot be used for land acquisition or construction.

DOJ COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment

The Subcommittee will accept CDS requests for COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment for the development of technologies and automated systems to assist law enforcement agencies in investigating, responding to, and preventing crime. Recipients shall include State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments and their public agencies (for example, police and/or sheriff's departments). Allowable activities are limited to the statutorily allowable purpose areas under the COPS Office statute, including the procurement of equipment, technology, or support systems, and the development of new technologies to assist recipient entities in reorienting the emphasis of their activities from reacting to crime to preventing crime. CDS requests funded in a final bill will be subject to the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 and the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, and the applicable Award Owner's Manual. Agencies should consider the full range of potential legal, constitutional, and civil liberties and privacy implications associated with generating, acquiring, or using technology or data. For example, agencies that purchase unmanned aircraft systems must be aware of the Federal requirements and best practices for their effective and safe operation that is respectful of civil liberties and maximize the safety of citizens.

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