



**Mitchell Nixon**  
**Sheriff**

## GEORGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**Dominique Rufful**  
**Chief Deputy**

**April 01, 2024**

**The Honorable Mike Ezell**  
**443 Cannon House Building**  
**Washington, DC**

**RE: George County: Inter-Operable Regional Emergency Communications Array and Tower**

**Dear Congressman Ezell,**

I'm writing to express my full support for the George County Board of Supervisors' funding request for \$1.6 million through the U.S. Dept. of Justice's COPS Grant to construct a new regional emergency communication tower and install a digital communication array.

It has been known for quite some time in the Sheriff's Department about communication "dead zones" for VHF radio units in the county. The County recently completed a third-party emergency communication audit which verified these radio gaps. Eliminating these communication dead zones will greatly improve rural response times and benefit the overall safety for law enforcement in the field.

Another major benefit is Inter-operability with fellow law enforcement agencies. This new tower & array will significantly expand the State's MSWIN coverage throughout South Mississippi for all state emergency agencies and law enforcement in surrounding counties (Jackson, Stone, Perry, and Greene).

Also, the tower's digital technology will allow the Sheriff's Deputies and local first responders to effectively use just one handheld unit instead of currently carrying three VHF radio units to a scene.

The County is committed to this vital public safety project. There is already an agreement with a third-party firm for signal tests to determine the best tower location and the County is currently meeting with state organizers for further expansion into the MSWIN system.

It is also an honor and privilege to formally write you for the first time as George County Sheriff and make this request in partnership with the Supervisors for this Emergency Communications Array & Tower Project. I look forward to working together on many projects over my first term in office with you and the entire staff.

**Best Regards,**

  
**Sheriff Mitchell Nixon**

Cc: Supervisor Frankie Massey, County 911 Committee; Supervisor Kelly Wright, 911 Committee; and Ken Flanagan, Community Development