



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 25, 2020

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant for Additional Law Enforcement Personnel**

I have directed our Grants Management and Innovation (GMI) Office along with the Sheriff's Department to apply for the most recent Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program grant announcement to fund initial personnel services for the Rural Law Enforcement Unit (RLEU) proposed by the Sheriff. This proposal is now contained as a supplemental budget request in the Sheriff's budget.

Given the importance of rural law enforcement, particularly in western and southern Pima County, the federal government should endorse our COPS grant funding request as it will greatly assist with improving Border security. The County will ultimately have to absorb the cost of the RLEU, but may do so over time rather than paying for the entire cost of this new law enforcement unit in Year 1. This particular program will pay for a little less than half of the total personnel cost for this Unit over three years.

The RLEU would largely eliminate the need to consider Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) grant funding in the future, particularly since the County is not eligible for indirect expense recovery as well as the requirement that OPSG funding be used for overtime that has proven to be costly from a pension payment perspective for the County.

The COPS Hiring Program grant will be submitted by the Pima County Sheriff's Department to the U.S. Department of Justice by the deadline of March 11, 2020 and I will include the RLEU in my recommended budget, subject to receiving the COPS Hiring Program grant for funding the personnel costs associated with this Unit.

I have also directed GMI and the Sheriff's Department to explore all available options for grants to fund the capital associated with the RLEU as well as the supplemental budget package submitted by the Sheriff for aircraft related capital.

CHH/anc

c: The Honorable Mark Napier, Pima County Sheriff
Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Regina Kelly, Director, Grants Management and Innovation Office