



Dear Representative Atkinson

The Hemingway Police Department is requesting two hundred Thousand Dollars for the purpose of updating our public safety equipment.

Public safety is one of the key factors in residents choosing where to locate. The Town of Hemingway Police Department, which has been in operation for nearly 50 years strives to serve its community members so that they feel safe and protected. By having mutual aid agreements with Williamsburg County, they also serve citizens that are outside of town limits when responding as backup. As a Tier IV county and a municipality that has over 50% of its population over 50 years of age, public safety is imperative.

Additionally, in rural communities that cover a larger land mass the wear and tear on vehicles and equipment can make it difficult for departments to replace fleet and equipment as recommended. This unveils another concern for recruitment, attrition, and efficiency- outdated equipment. In a world that is competing for law enforcement, a department that has old equipment and vehicles is viewed as a liability, or bottom of the barrel agency. Because of this, officers choose to work with the most up to date equipment that ensures their safety along with allowing them to best serve their community.

Here, in Hemingway, new leadership has made it a priority to develop a capital improvement plan that will rotate fleet and equipment in and out. As we begin this process, bringing our current equipment up to date is a necessary step in ensuring the cyclical decline of the department is combatted. The Town of Hemingway currently is in great need of updating some of our public safety equipment. Updating our equipment will help us better serve our community and its citizens. Our current radios system will not allow our officers to communicate with outside entities. This is a big concern for not only the safety of our citizens but the safety of our officers. To make this possible we need to purchase new radios that can be updated with new software as new software is available. Our current radios are out of date and can not be updated. Other equipment that is crucial in policing in today's society is in car computers with software that allows them to be as mobile as possible. We have seen the positive impact that this equipment has had on departments that have this technology. This

technology will make our public safety more efficient and better able to provide the services that our community deserves. As the need for public safety grows nationwide, we owe it to our citizens and officers to be as up to date on our equipment and technology as possible. With your help we can make this happen. Thank you for your consideration and help with this matter.

Sincerely

*William Freeman*

William Freeman

Town Administrator

Town of Hemingway