

McCormick County Sheriff's Office

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| Narcotics Canine (K-9) Unit | \$ 17,000.00 |
| Replacement Sheriff Vehicles (6@ \$58,300) | \$ 350,000.00 |
| Law Enforcement Complex (replacement) | \$ 5,000,000.00 |
| Dash Cameras | \$ 186,495.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| TOTAL | \$ 5,519,501 |



Sheriff Clarke A. Stearns

P.O. Box 1236, 211 W. Augusta St. McCormick, SC 29835

Phone (864) 465-3200

February 13, 2023

Dear Representative Gibson,

I hope this finds you healthy and well as you enter a new session at the House. Hopefully you and your family had a wonderful holiday season and were able to partake in some of the many events McCormick County had hosted. It truly is a special time of year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

I write this today in reference to a conversation you and I had at our holiday dinner. We were speaking of budgets, or lack of and we discussed me submitting a "wish list" to you for submission to the house in hopes McCormick County may be able to glean some assistance. As you are well aware, McCormick is the second poorest county in the state and currently, we have absolutely no industry. Absolutely zero. It's a shame however my office continues to provide stellar police services to the residents of this county on a shoestring budget. Serving the community is our passion, a calling if you will in what has become a anti police society which only highlights what we do wrong as we strive to do our best.

Below is a list of needs specific to the McCormick Sheriff's Office:

- 1- Single purpose Narcotics K-9. Cost is \$17,500 which includes a pre-trained, certified dog and training for its handler. (A K-9 vehicle is separate and apart, listed below.)
- 6 New Police Patrol Vehicles (PPV's). Cost is about \$350,000, roughly \$58,300 each after purchase of base vehicle, lights and siren, camera and radar systems and cosmetic striping, etc. (One would be K-9 upfitted which includes kennel, fans, and heat sensors.) These are industry standard vehicles.
- 1 New Public Safety Law Enforcement Complex. Estimated cost by current standards is approximately five million. We have outgrown our current facility which consistently has HVAC, mold, and air quality issues. Logistically, it's not located in an optimal area and is poorly designed to meet the needs of modern-day policing. We do not have adequate locker rooms, kitchen areas or training facilities which were never introduced in the original construction. The county owns the acreage surrounding our current detention center. Ideally, this facility would be built near or attached to the detention

Thank you Sir for your commitment and service to us. Please see attached.

Yours in service,

Clarke Stearns
Sheriff
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-----Original Message-----

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County of McCormick - Sheriff's Office

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center for Inmate safety reasons and contain adequate facilities for the Magistrates Office to include a courtroom, Probation and Parole and the Sheriff's Office, all in the same complex.

- 20 New Dash Cameras for our fleet. The McCormick County Council approved \$125,000.00 in last years budget for Body Cameras which are required by statue. This will be scheduled out over the next five years. Dash Cameras are estimated to cost \$186,495.00 on a five-year schedule similar to that of our body cameras. While I'm thankful the county funded our body cameras, I'm aware that the current tax base does not support another \$186K for dash cameras (also required by statue). We are in the process of applying for grant funds for this equipment however there is no guarantee.

I know this may sound extravagant and it deeply humbles me to ask, however please know, I have always been proud of the fact that you stand up for the "little guys" and continue to fight to make McCormick County a better place to work, live, play or retire. The squeaky wheel gets the grease, and we are squeaking now to the point where we need help.

Thank you for your time in entertaining this letter. I sincerely hope you and your family have a blessed year as you embark in your duties as a voice for McCormick County. As always, please feel free to call on the men and women of the McCormick Sheriff's Office should you ever need us. We are here to serve.

Yours in service,



Clarke A. Stearns
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