

The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office is proud to have and maintain a top-notch Crime Scene and Evidence Storage Unit. We maintain 5 Crime Scene Investigators that have graduated from the National Forensics Academy and maintain numerous hours of continuing education. They are considered experts in their field and have been qualified as expert witnesses on numerous occasions. We are known across the State for our detailed and thorough Crime Scene Investigations. Although our staff are highly trained and capable we still rely on equipment and technology to do the best job that we can for our community.

It is for this reason that we are requesting this House Member Appropriation. Originally formed in 2013, our Crime Scene and Evidence Unit began with basic equipment. We slowly acquired tools of the trade but like anything else upgrades are necessary. We intend to use this appropriation to upgrade and replace existing equipment that has reached it's end of life. We also intend to purchase new technology that will further increase our capabilities and ultimately provide a better service for our community. These upgrades will also serve to make us more self-sufficient which relieves some burden on State Agencies tasked with assisting local agencies.

With these goals in mind, we intend to use the requested appropriation as follows:

Crime Scene Response: \$225,000- This will include vehicles, equipment, and tools used on and for crime scene responses. These items will improve our capabilities in the field when responding, documenting, and collecting evidence.

Crime Scene Processing and Storage: \$275,000- This will include processing and storage equipment, supplies, and technology. These requests will enhance our ability to gather useful information from evidence recovered, prepare better criminal cases, and ensure successful prosecution of cases that hinge on physical evidence.

Sincerely,

Barry S. Falle

Sheriff- Lancaster County, SC