



Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

"Leading The Way For A Safer Pinellas"

March 26, 2020

Honorable Pat Gerard, Chair
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

RE: **BUDGET AMENDMENT**
MOA-US Marshals Service Joint Law Enforcement Operations Task Force
Control Number: JLEO-20-0278

Dear Commissioner Gerard:

The U.S. Marshals Service has awarded the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office additional funding in the amount of \$14,649 for overtime while participating in Joint Law Enforcement Operations. We request these funds be added to our FY20 budget with the breakdown as follows:

Personnel Services	<u>14,650</u>
Total	\$ 14,650

Upon review, please increase our budget allocation accordingly and forward these funds to my Fiscal Affairs Bureau.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Gualtieri", written over a horizontal line.

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Pinellas County, Florida

BG: SEK/nmj

Enclosure

cc: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator
Jeanette Phillips, Chief Deputy Director, Clerk of the Circuit Court
Bill Berger, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Lisa Burley, Analyst, Office of Management and Budget



Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
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December 3, 2019

Honorable Karen Seel, Chair
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

RE: **BUDGET AMENDMENT**
FY19 Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement

Dear Commissioner Seel:

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement grant in the amount of \$189,565 by the National Institute of Justice. We request these funds be added to our FY19-20 budget with the breakdown as follows:

Capital Outlay	<u>\$ 189,570</u>
Total	\$ 189,570

Upon review, please increase our budget allocation accordingly and forward these funds to my Fiscal Affairs Bureau.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Gualtieri", written over a horizontal line.

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Pinellas County, Florida

BG: SEK/tkf

Enclosure

cc: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator
Jeanette Phillips, Chief Deputy Director, Clerk of the Circuit Court
Bill Berger, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Lisa Burley, Analyst, Office of Management and Budget

Subject:

Grant Award from the U.S. Department of Justice for the 2019 Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program.

Recommended Action:

Approval by the County Administrator of the Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Award.

- The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program funds projects to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services.
- Pinellas County Sheriff's Office PCSO, and Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory (PCFL) partnered in the grant application for funding to help address the issue of opioid and other synthetic drugs.
- PCFL is in need of new equipment to improve processing of samples in the laboratory using automation and infrared technology, to differentiate between chemical compounds found in various drugs.
- PCFL will receive \$130,000 to help reduce the average turnaround time of seized drug cases to less than 20 days from submission to report release.
- PCSO will receive \$59,565.00 to purchase forensic equipment for processing evidence.
- The total grant award is \$189,565.00 for one (1) year. No match required.

Strategic Plan:

Ensure Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

2.1 Provide planning, coordination, prevention, and protective services to ensure a safe and secure community

2.2 Be a facilitator, convener, and purchaser of services for those in need

Deliver First Class Services to the Public and Our Customers

5.1 Maximize partner relationships and public outreach

5.2 Be responsible stewards of the public's resources

5.3 Ensure effective and efficient delivery of county services and support

Summary:

PCFL Gas Chromatograph-infrared Spectrometer Detector (GC-IRD) can separate complex mixtures and provided structure-specific data that allows for identification of positional isomers. The inclusion of an auto-sampler to a GC-IRD system will result in an efficient and effective method for identification. GC-IRD will be used for the identification of clandestine drugs, including the opiate and opioid submissions which have caused a significant spike in drug submissions in this area. The addition of a GC-

IRD will assist the laboratory in tackling the increased casework and backlog created by these new drug trends.

Background/Explanation:

The PCFL provides crime laboratory services in the disciplines of chemistry, biology, and toxicology for law enforcement agencies operating within Pinellas County and post-mortem toxicology for the District Six Medical Examiner's Office. Critical to these efforts, the testing of agency submitted evidence on drug-related cases continues to grow in complexity with fentanyl and the evolving drug market. Additionally, the Medical Examiner's Office reported 423 substance-related overdose cases for Pinellas County in 2019 with 332 being opioid-related. To address the ongoing case complexity and volume, this grant helps with additional laboratory equipment (Gas Chromatograph-infrared Detector) to assist with identification of clandestine drugs in the submissions/samples received.

In order to address the growing complexity of processing opioid contaminated evidence, PCSO's Forensic Services Division will use the grant to acquire equipment to detect narcotics contamination on scene (Investigation Laser), enhance development of fingerprints (Climate Chamber), and improve Fentanyl containment (Fentanyl Containment Hood).

Fiscal Impact:

Funding will be provided by the 2019 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant in the amount of \$189,565.00. The grant is for one (1) year. PCFL will receive \$130,000.00 to purchase laboratory equipment and PCSO \$59,565.00 for forensic services equipment. There is no match requirement. Funding to support this item was included in the FY20 Adopted Budget.

Delegated Authority:

Authority for the County Administrator to sign this Amendment is granted under Code Section 2-62 (a)(1).

Staff Member Responsible:

Daisy Rodriguez, Director, Human Services

Partners:

Pinellas County Sherriff's Office
Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory

Attachments:

Notice of Grant Award with Funding Conditions
Grant Application with Budget
GAN Changing Signing Authority to County Administrator