



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Donavan
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
McKinney
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Detroit Public Safety Foundation- Detroit Police Explorers
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
1301 Third St, ste 547, Detroit, MI 48226
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
1301 Third St, ste 547, Detroit, MI 48226
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Joe Tate, District 9
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. This initiative directly supports public safety, crime prevention, and workforce readiness by proactively engaging with youth before they fall into negative behaviors. The Explorers Command Post Vehicle will be utilized to:
 - Expand recruitment into the Explorers Program, ensuring young people are exposed to careers in law enforcement and other professional fields, reinforcing self-reliance and work ethic.
 - Deliver drug and crime prevention education, focusing on the dangers of illegal

substances, vapes, alcohol, fentanyl, social media threats, and gang violence.

- Promote personal responsibility and mental resilience, equipping youth with the tools to recognize and manage stress, conflict, and crisis situations effectively.

- Teach crisis identification and response, helping young people and their peers recognize when someone is in crisis, including themselves, and take appropriate action, such as making a call for help.

- Encourage early career planning, preparing youth to join the workforce, take ownership of their futures, and avoid dependency on government assistance.

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- Strengthen public trust in law enforcement, fostering positive interactions between officers, Explorers, and community members.

- Act as an emergency response hub, providing support such as first aid, lost child recovery, and crisis intervention at community gatherings.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

185000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["Local"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

Anne Mervenne, Board Chair – Mervenne & Co.; Mike Bruggeman, Vice Chair – Downtown Detroit Partnership; Sharima Bulchak, Secretary/Treasurer - Strategic Staffing Solutions; Patti Kukula, Executive Director – Detroit Public Safety Foundation

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

10/1/2025-9/30/2026

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes



Proposal for the Acquisition of the Detroit Police Law Enforcement Explorers Command Post Vehicle

Introduction

For over 50 years, the Detroit Police Law Enforcement Explorers Program has served as a proven pathway for young men and women to develop strong leadership skills, self-discipline, and a commitment to public service. Many Explorers have gone on to serve in law enforcement, while others have become successful professionals and business owners, using the values of hard work, responsibility, and integrity instilled through this program.

To expand our outreach, recruitment, and educational impact, we seek funding for the Explorers Command Post Vehicle, a mobile unit that will bring law enforcement education, crime prevention training, career development, and mental wellness awareness directly to schools, recreation centers, and community events across Metro Detroit and Southeast Michigan. This vehicle will not only provide educational resources but will also act as an emergency response hub at large gatherings, reinforcing public safety and supporting youth in need.

Purpose and Justification

This initiative directly supports public safety, crime prevention, and workforce readiness by proactively engaging with youth before they fall into negative behaviors. The Explorers Command Post Vehicle will be utilized to:

- Expand recruitment into the Explorers Program, ensuring young people are exposed to careers in law enforcement and other professional fields, reinforcing self-reliance and work ethic.
- Deliver drug and crime prevention education, focusing on the dangers of illegal substances, vapes, alcohol, fentanyl, social media threats, and gang violence.
- Promote personal responsibility and mental resilience, equipping youth with the tools to recognize and manage stress, conflict, and crisis situations effectively.
- Teach crisis identification and response, helping young people and their peers recognize when someone is in crisis, including themselves, and take appropriate action, such as making a call for help.
- Encourage early career planning, preparing youth to join the workforce, take ownership of their futures, and avoid dependency on government assistance.

- Strengthen public trust in law enforcement, fostering positive interactions between officers, Explorers, and community members.
- Act as an emergency response hub, providing support such as first aid, lost child recovery, and crisis intervention at community gatherings.
-

Enhancing Mental Wellness and Crisis Awareness

A key component of this initiative is mental wellness training to equip youth with the tools to handle stress, anxiety, and peer pressure while reinforcing personal responsibility and sound decision-making. Through this initiative, youth will:

- Learn to recognize signs of distress in themselves and others and understand when to seek help.
- Develop skills to handle conflicts responsibly, de-escalating situations before they become violent.
- Understand the impact of substance abuse on mental health, reinforcing the importance of clear-headed decision-making.
- Gain problem-solving and coping strategies that build resilience in tough situations.
-

This training supports the values of personal accountability, strength, and self-sufficiency, ensuring young people are prepared to make wise, independent choices that benefit themselves and their communities.

Vehicle Capabilities and Features

The Explorers Command Post Vehicle will serve as a mobile educational and public safety center equipped with:

- Interactive learning stations for career exploration, law enforcement training, and drug prevention education.
- Multimedia capabilities for presentations on crime prevention, mental wellness, and early career planning.
- Storage and distribution space for educational materials, giveaways, and recruitment information.
- Emergency response support, including first aid kits, lost-and-found services, and crisis intervention tools.

- Private consultation space for career mentorship and one-on-one youth engagement with officers and Explorers.
- Surveillance cameras and TV monitors to enhance safety and enable live training sessions and presentations.

Funding Request and Cost Breakdown

We request **\$185,000** to acquire and outfit the Explorers Command Post Vehicle. Below is the detailed breakdown:

Expense	Cost	Justification
Used Commercial Vehicle (Step Van or RV-Style)	\$50,000	Cost-effective solution ensuring reliability and longevity.
Customization & Retrofit (Interior & Exterior)	\$95,000	Includes TV, computer/workstations, bench seating, storage, emergency lights, radio, branding/wrap, air conditioning, heater, energy converters, and cabinets.
Technology & Equipment	\$20,000	Laptops, interactive displays, PA system, surveillance cameras, and TV monitors.
Emergency Response & Safety Equipment	\$10,000	First aid kits, AED, fire extinguishers, and emergency supplies.
Mental Wellness & Crisis Resources	\$5,000	Printed guides, digital training modules, and outreach materials.
Ongoing Maintenance & Insurance (First Year)	\$5,000	Ensures vehicle remains operational and fully insured.
TOTAL REQUESTED FUNDING	\$185,000	Investment in public safety and youth development.

Proven Success of the Explorers Program

The Detroit Police Explorers Program has a 52-year track record of preparing young people for success. Many former Explorers have:

- Joined law enforcement, now serving as officers, detectives, and leadership figures within the DPD and other agencies.
- Built successful careers in fields such as business, emergency services, and public administration.

- Started their own businesses, applying the discipline and leadership skills learned in the program.

The long-term benefits of this program prove that investment in youth development and crime prevention leads to a safer, more prosperous society.

Return on Investment and Fiscal Responsibility

This investment will:

- Strengthen law enforcement recruitment, ensuring future officers are well-trained and committed to public service.
- Reduce crime through early intervention, providing at-risk youth with structured alternatives and reinforcing law and order.
- Encourage workforce readiness, helping young people develop strong work ethics and skills that lead to financial independence.
- Promote community responsibility, reinforcing family values and civic engagement.
- Support fiscal responsibility, as proactive education and crime prevention save taxpayer dollars by reducing future criminal justice and social welfare costs.

A Commitment to Public Safety and a Stronger Future

This initiative aligns with the values of law and order, personal responsibility, and limited government reliance by equipping youth with the knowledge, discipline, and career readiness they need to succeed on their own merits. The Explorers Command Post Vehicle represents a strategic investment that will:

- Ensure our communities are safer by preventing youth involvement in crime.
- Promote respect for law enforcement and authority, reinforcing the importance of civic duty and responsibility.
- Provide youth with real career opportunities, reducing future dependence on social programs.
- Strengthen public-private partnerships, leveraging law enforcement expertise to train the next generation of responsible citizens.

By approving this funding, you are making a direct investment in the safety, prosperity, and moral strength of Metro Detroit's future leaders. We look forward to your support in making this initiative a reality.

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Funding Request and Return on Investment

We are requesting funding to acquire, customize, and maintain the Explorers Command Post Vehicle. This investment will:

- Strengthen law enforcement recruitment, ensuring future officers are well-trained and committed to public service.
- Reduce crime through early intervention, providing at-risk youth with structured alternatives and reinforcing law and order.
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