



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Timothy
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Beson
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:
Bay County Sheriff's Office
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
503 Third St. Bay City, MI 48708
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
N/A
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Rep. Timmy Beson, 96th District
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.
The purpose of this directed spending item would be to purchase a 360-degree sonar unit along with the accessories (screen) for the Bay County Sheriff's Office search and rescue / recovery team. A 360-degree sonar unit would significantly enhance the efficiency, safety, and success rate of the sheriff's office search and recovery/rescue team, particularly in underwater and low-visibility environments consistent with the Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay.

Given the recent reduction in operational capacity at the U.S. Coast Guard Station Saginaw River in Essexville, Michigan, it is crucial for the Bay County Sheriff's Office to enhance its search and rescue (SAR) capabilities. The Coast Guard station has transitioned to a "scheduled mission station" due to staffing shortages, meaning it operates with limited hours and relies on distant stations like Tawas or Detroit for emergency responses.

Enhanced Search and Rescue Capabilities:

The Hummingbird Mega 360 Universal provides high-resolution, 360-degree sonar imaging, allowing for comprehensive underwater scans. This technology is particularly beneficial in locating submerged objects, such as sunken vessels or drowning victims, in the expansive and often challenging environments of Saginaw Bay and the Saginaw River. The Hummingbird Xplore display complements this system by offering real-time visualization of sonar data, enabling swift decision-making during rescue missions.

Addressing Increased Local Responsibilities:

With the Coast Guard's reduced presence, local agencies like the Bay County Sheriff's Office are now the primary responders for maritime emergencies in the region. The Sheriff's Office has already taken steps to enhance its response capabilities, including the acquisition of new patrol boats and the arrival of a search and rescue airboat. Integrating the Hummingbird systems into their operations would further strengthen their ability to respond promptly and effectively to emergencies.

The acquisition of this equipment would not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution as it would be used to directly benefit the residents of Michigan by enhancing the Bay County Sheriff's Office ability to respond to water emergencies.

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.

10000

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

["None"]

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

Local unit government

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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.'

N/A

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:

FY2026. Purchase and implementation within 3 months of receiving funding

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

Yes