



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Tom
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Kuhn
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.  
Rep. Donni Steele, 54th District  
Rep. Mark Tisdell, 55th District
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
1200 N. TELEGRAPH RD., BLDG. 38E, PONTIAC, MI 48341
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. Tom Kuhn, 57th 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 requested \$10 million in legislatively directed funding is intended for the acquisition, outfitting, and operation of a helicopter to support the Sheriff's Office in its mission to protect and serve the public. This helicopter will be a critical tool for a wide range of public safety operations, including search and rescue missions, rapid deployment in emergency situations, fugitive apprehension, disaster response, and aerial surveillance during large-scale events or natural disasters.

**Public Benefit:**

This investment will significantly enhance the Sheriff's Office's ability to respond swiftly and effectively in life-threatening situations, ultimately improving outcomes in emergencies and potentially saving lives. Air support has been proven to reduce response times, increase officer and public safety, and improve coordination across agencies during multi-jurisdictional incidents. In addition, the helicopter can provide vital support during wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters, as well as assist in locating missing persons, particularly in rural or heavily wooded areas where ground searches are less effective.

**Appropriate Use of Taxpayer Funding:**

This request represents a prudent and necessary investment in public safety infrastructure. The use of taxpayer funds is justified by the direct, measurable benefits to public health, safety, and welfare. The helicopter will serve a broad public purpose rather than benefiting any individual or private interest. Moreover, its use will support regional operations and may assist neighboring jurisdictions as part of mutual aid agreements, maximizing the benefit to a wide geographic area and diverse populations.

**Constitutional Compliance:**

This spending item complies with Article IV, § 30 of the Michigan Constitution, which prohibits appropriations to private purposes without corresponding public benefit. The funds will be used exclusively for the acquisition and operational deployment of a public asset owned and operated by the Sheriff's Office. The helicopter will remain the property of a governmental entity and be utilized solely for governmental and public safety functions. As such, the appropriation serves a legitimate public purpose and does not constitute aid to a private entity.

**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.**

10000000

**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:

The helicopter will be purchased as soon as the funds are available

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

Yes