

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
4TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTERS:

OCEAN
Visit: 33 Washington Street
Toms River, NJ 08754
Mail: PO Box 728
Toms River, NJ 08754
(732) 504-0567

MONMOUTH
1715 Highway 35 North
Suite 303
Middletown, NJ 07748
(732) 780-3035



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMISSION ON CHINA

CHAIRMAN, GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRMAN, TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

www.chrissmith.house.gov

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Cartwright,

I write to respectfully request Community Project Funding in fiscal year 2025 to fund much needed vehicle augmentation program for the Ocean County Sheriff's Office.

The Ocean County Sheriffs Office, located at 120 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753, requires federal funds to augment their vehicle fleet to meet the growing law enforcement demands of Ocean County and the greater region. The federal support will enable the Ocean County Sheriff's Office to continue delivering critical emergency and law enforcement services to a geographically large county home to critical federal installations, a large senior population, and complex and varied terrain including the New Jersey Pine Barrens, the barrier peninsula and barrier island along Barnegat Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. This project has the strong support of local and county elected officials.

Ocean County is a growing community that is committed to smart growth, allowing for sustained levels of public services as the country grows. Ocean County hosts portions of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst including the whole of Naval Air Station Lakehurst and large portions of Army Support Activity Dix. As a result, the Ocean County Sheriffs Office, and all law enforcement in the host communities, are required to be prepared for emergency response in support of base activities. The Sheriff's Office maintains a strong relationship with federal law enforcement partners located at the Joint Base, and throughout the region. As the Office of Emergency Management Coordinator for Ocean County, the Sheriff's Office plays a critical role in responding to large scale emergencies across a large and densely populated County.

Funding for the Ocean County Sheriff's Office is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as it is in keeping with the stated goals of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program providing specific funding acquisition of police cruisers to augment the current vehicle fleet, which will better allow the Ocean County's Sheriff's office to perform all its law enforcement and emergency response duties. This program has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

Ocean County is the fastest growing county in New Jersey since 2020, with current estimates placing the population at 659,197. The County has a large geographic footprint spread out over an area of 915 square miles, with areas that are heavily wooded, and is prone to inclement weather due to proximity to the Atlantic Ocean. As a result of its coastal location and constant exposure to salt water, patrol vehicles suffer significant wear and tear, compromising the departments' ability to respond to emergencies across a large geographic area, and requiring vehicles to be sent for maintenance and unavailable for emergency response.

I certify that neither I, nor my immediate family, has any financial interest in this project.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of this request. I appreciate the Committee's due consideration of the proposal.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress