

Individual First Aid Kits (IFAK) and Training

Collin County Sheriff's Office

4300 Community Avenue
McKinney, Texas 75071

Grant Proposal

to

CoServ Charitable Foundation

August 26, 2013

Organizational Statement of Purpose

We, the men and women of the Collin County Sheriff's Office, believe that our fundamental duty is to serve and protect the citizens of Collin County with fairness, compassion, and respect. We demand excellence in the quality of our law enforcement, stressing professionalism, integrity, and timeliness, so that those we serve may feel secure. We provide equal enforcement and protection of the law without prejudice or favor. We promote the setting of goals in partnership with the community, and prioritize and address problems based on the concerns of the community. Committed to continuous improvement in law enforcement, we promote and utilize the most modern techniques available.

Project Description

From recent lessons learned throughout the country, including the Aurora (Colorado) movie theater shooting, the Boston Marathon bombing, and numerous tornadoes, law enforcement officers have found themselves in the role of providing lifesaving trauma wound care until victims can be transported to a higher level of medical care. Law enforcement officers are usually the first people on-scene at any disaster, including major traffic accidents involving multiple victims, and what happens in the first five minutes of response can literally mean life or death for many involved in a major emergency. Officers are often faced with the challenge of initiating law enforcement functions, such as establishing a safe scene, and almost simultaneously providing first care for critically injured civilians and/or fellow officers.

Additionally, any complications delaying EMS arrival or their ability to provide essential emergency care, such as extended response time for rural/remote areas (northern Collin County), traffic congestion/delays, or if the scene is deemed unsafe for entry, can significantly affect the well-being of the wounded. Even in an urban environment, it takes time for EMS to arrive on scene, and law enforcement personnel need the tools necessary to sustain life.

While Collin County Sheriff's Office vehicles do have basic first aid kits to treat cuts and scrapes, officers do not have the necessary medical supplies/devices or training to treat wounds sustained from bullets, shrapnel, or other high-speed or flying debris. The Sheriff's Office would like to purchase law enforcement individual first aid kits (IFAK) for each of 40 Sheriff's Office vehicles and obtain training for 50 officers on their use.

IFAKs include essential supplies and devices necessary to combat the three most common causes of preventable traumatic death - hemorrhage from extremity wounds, tension pneumothorax, and airway/respiratory problems/compromise. Each of these emergencies can be readily managed using relatively simple techniques and minimal equipment; unfortunately, this equipment is not usually available and these techniques are rarely taught to law enforcement officers.

Law enforcement IFAKs came to national notice following the Gabrielle Giffords shooting in Arizona, where officers, trained just 6 months previously, employed the use of these penetrating trauma wound kits to treat 10 of the 19 victims, while EMS was held off in a safe staging area for 12 minutes. The officers' quick actions were credited with improving vital signs and decreasing hemorrhage by local emergency department physicians and trauma surgeons.

Law enforcement is an often unrecognized link in the chain of survival for many trauma victims. Every investigative operation, traffic citation, domestic disturbance call, and arrival at an accident scene serves to prevent or deter potential injuries to emergency responders and the general public. Every officer routinely faces, on a daily basis, the potential for violent confrontation and should have the necessary training and equipment to provide on-scene emergency medical care for themselves, any other officer they may contact, or any civilian they are sworn to protect.

Project Goals/Objectives

Goal – Improve public safety and reduce injury to officers, offenders, and bystanders

Objectives

- ☐ Purchase 40 vehicle mounted individual first aid kits (IFAK) for Sheriff’s Office vehicles
- ☐ Train 50 officers in kit use for tactical trauma treatment

Budget/Expense Description

Item	Description	Grant Funding
Vehicle Mounted IFAKs	40 IFAKs @ \$300 each	\$ 12,000.00
Tactical Trauma/IFAK Training	Training for 50 officers @ \$125 each	\$ 6,250.00
		\$ 18,250.00

The Collin County Sheriff’s Office is requesting funds to purchase 40 vehicle mounted IFAKs and tactical trauma training for 50 officers. The total project cost is expected to be \$23,250; however, Collin County has requested \$5,000 through the Target Public Safety Grant program. Thus, Collin County would like to request the balance of \$18,250 from the CoServ Charitable Foundation.

The IFAK includes supplies and devices necessary to combat the most common causes of preventable traumatic death including compression bandages, quick clotting combat gauze, chest seal, tactical tourniquets, decompression needles, and airway management supplies. IFAK contents are small and lightweight and can even be self-applied one-handed if serious injury befalls the officer.

Some degree of initial training is required for officers to become familiar with kit contents, their intended purposes, and how and when to use them. The tactical emergency management training program’s primary goal is to give police officers the training necessary to sustain themselves or others in situations with life-threatening medical emergencies. It is not designed to be a first aid class, but rather a survival class for officers, providing them with the opportunity to become familiar with the IFAK’s contents to ensure rapid retrieval of essential items when necessary.

County funds, allocated to the Sheriff’s Office, will be used to replenish and/or resupply kits when items are used or expire, as well as train additional/new officers in tactical trauma and IFAK use.