To: Commissioners Court
From: Jim Skinner, Sheriff   *JOS*
Date: February 11, 2020
Reference: CEU Immediate Needs

The Collin County Sheriff's Office Child Exploitation Unit (CEU) Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICACTF) requests the following items be purchased. The following items are needed to support the operational needs of the unit. CEU has expanded from one full time investigator to three full time investigators and two reserve deputies. This request arises out of a need to replace outdated equipment that hinders or makes it impossible for CEU investigators from investigating Internet Crimes Against Children offenses.

CEU Project - Immediate Needs

Detail / Specs	Qty	Unit Price	Total Cost
*Forensic Machines	3	$ 20,000	$ 60,000
Dell Workstation Laptop	3	$ 3,165	$ 9,495
*Monitor	6	$ 300	$ 1,800
*Monitor Arms	3	$ 80	$ 240
*Cherry G80-385OLXBEU-2 Keyboard	3	$ 100	$ 300
*Logitech M500 Mouse	3	$ 50	$ 150
*Dell Performance Dock	3	$ 235	$ 705
*KVM Switch	3	$ 600	$ 1,800
*Kangaru QS Slim BD-RE Blu-Ray Burner/Player	3	$ 145	$ 435
*Battery Backup / Surge Protector Combo	3	$ 150	$ 450
*USB Hub	3	$ 50	$ 150
Adobe pro DC	3	$ 180	$ 540
Apple iPad Pro	3	$ 950	$ 2,850
iPad Keyboard Case	3	$ 129	$ 387
Apple Pencil	3	$ 129	$ 387
Applications	1	$ 100	$ 100
		TOTAL	**$ 79,789**

Repair and replace request was submitted for the forensic machines. Budget office denied the request.

The listed workstations, monitors, and peripherals will be used by the CEU to meet the requirements of forensic software, VMware software, and investigative needs. The workstations will be utilized on the CEU network and cannot be connected to the County network. This prevents child abuse and child pornography material from being placed on the County network and servers. The workstations will be able to run two to three virtual machine instances simultaneously while leaving enough resources for the investigator to continue normal work on their physical machine.

Computers, tablets, smart phones and social media sites are increasingly being used as instruments to perpetrate criminal offenses which are investigated by the CEU. As a result of this dramatic increase of technology to facilitate criminal activity, the fruits of forensic examinations, subpoenas to Internet service providers, and search warrants, results in hundreds to many thousands of individual files for just one case which must be analyzed by CEU Investigators. For computers, the handling of many small files incurs greater resource cost that the handling of a small number of large files of equal size; a fact that is profoundly exacerbated by antivirus software. The attempt to open some evidence folders results in computer lockups forcing investigators to seek other computers. These more advanced computers will allow for a more effective and efficient examination of large volume data.

The listed Blu-Ray burner and duplicator will be used to read, produce, and create duplicate copies of evidential CDs, DVDs, and Blu-Ray disks.

The listed iPad Pros and peripherals will be utilized during undercover chat operations, evidence preservation, documentation, tracking, and digitizing forms and documents utilized during investigations; primarily during witness, victim, and suspect interviews. This includes the secure transport of child abuse material to crime scenes where the images and/or videos are utilized to identify child victims and to interview the offenders. By moving away from the current practice of printing the images and/or video screen captures, to having these images only in a digital format, the CEU will achieve greater security and increased investigative efficiency.

The Collin County Sheriff's Office CEU – ICACTF respectfully request funding in the amount of $79,789 for this equipment that is currently needed.

If approved, IT has recommended a 3 year refresh of the included items. A 3 year refresh is needed to keep up with emerging technology offenders utilize to commit crimes against children.

JS/mc