

**Conducted Energy Device Equipment
for Collin County Constables**

Collin County Constables

920 East Park Boulevard
Plano, Texas 75074

Grant Proposal

to

CoServ Charitable Foundation

June 10, 2013

Statement of Purpose

The Constables' Offices are dedicated to serving the citizens of Collin County in an efficient, professional, and respectful manner to execute all court orders and legal documents, both civil and criminal, and to promote a safe and secure environment.

Project Description

Collin County has four constable precincts, each consisting of the elected Constable and several deputies, all of whom are licensed and sworn peace officers. Each Constable's Office is responsible for serving as the bailiff and providing security in their respective precinct's Justice of the Peace court and the county buildings in which they are located. Additionally, the Constable's Office functions as the chief civil and criminal process server executing and returning all warrants, subpoenas, protective orders, citations, evictions, writs, and other criminal process documents.

Execution of these responsibilities can result in confrontations with civilians leading to use-of-force events with potential injury to civilians and officers. For example, constable officers have been assaulted while providing security in the courts and county offices; servicing warrants, evictions, and other process documents; and performing mental health transfers. Additionally, constables have chased down and wrestled/restrained persons resisting arrest. At times, family members and/or friends of the courtroom defendant or person being served have attempted to prevent officers from completing their public safety duties. Each of these altercations has the potential to put bystanders, officers, and offenders at risk.

When/if verbal communication does not resolve an issue, Collin County Constable Officers must use an option from the force continuum depending upon the situation, severity of the crime, nature and extent of the threat posed, and degree of resistance. The force continuum is the range of options available to an officer when dealing with a confrontation; and, for constables, currently includes physical restraint/hands-on strikes, OC "pepper" spray, baton/impact weapon, and lethal force/firearm. However, most Collin County Constable Officers do not carry OC spray. Research has shown a 21% increase in injury rates to officers from accidental OC spray "blow back", putting the officer at further risk from the offender. Additionally, OC spray places bystanders at risk and results in the need for facility decontamination to remove the chemical irritant from the ventilation system. This leaves a force continuum gap for constables between using physical, hands-on restraint and lethal force. Inclusion of conducted energy devices (CEDs), commonly referred to as "TASERS", would provide constables with another less-lethal option that research has proven reduces injury rates to civilians and officers.

Empirical evidence shows that getting close to suspects to use hands-on tactics, bodily force, or impact weapons increases the likelihood of injury to officers and suspects alike, while the use of CEDs can substantially decrease officer and suspect injuries. Injury rate reductions vary, based on study, from 7 to 62% for officers and 14 to 65% for suspects, with all studies showing these less-lethal weapons help prevent or minimize physical struggles that cause injury to officers, offenders, and bystanders. At times, the mere presence of a CED-equipped officer is enough to prevent an altercation from occurring.

Unfortunately, county funding is not available to equip constable officers with CEDs. Support from the CoServ Charitable Foundation will allow for provision of CEDs to Collin County Constables improving public safety and reducing injury to officers and civilians.

Project Goals and Objectives

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

Objectives

- Purchase CEDs for 4 Constables and 21 deputies in Collin County
- Train and certify Constables and deputies in CED use

Budget and Expense Narrative

Item	Description	Grant Funding
Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs)	25 CEDs including warranty @ \$1,035 each	\$ 25,875.00
CED Holsters	25 Holsters for CEDs @ \$35 each	\$ 875.00
CED 21' Air Cartridges	75 Cartridges @ \$23 each	\$ 1,725.00
		\$ 28,475.00

CoServ funding will be used to purchase CEDs, holsters, and air cartridges for all 25 Collin County Constable Officers. Each CED will come with a 4-year warranty and two additional air cartridges. County funds, allocated to the Constables' Offices, will be used to purchase any additional CED equipment needs, as well as pay for any maintenance and replacement costs.

All constables equipped with a CED will be required to complete an initial training and certification course on CED use before being authorized to use the device. Additionally, officers will be required to qualify annually and participated in a refresher course biannually. Training will be obtained locally and will be paid, if necessary, using Constables' Offices funds.

References

Alpert, Geoffrey P., Smith, Michael R., Kaminski, Robert J., Fridell, Lorie A., MacDonald, John, and Bruce Kubu. Police Use of Force, Tasers and Other Less-Lethal Weapons, Research in Brief, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, May 2011, NCJ 232215.

MacDonald, John M., Kaminski, Robert J., and Michael R. Smith. "The Effects of Less-Lethal Weapons on Injuries in Police Use-of-Force Events," American Journal of Public Health 12 (Dec 2009): 2268 – 2274.



GRANT APPLICATION

Date of Application: 10 June 2013 Website Address: www.co.collin.tx.us/constables

Legal Name of Organization: Collin County

Employer Identification Number (EIN): 756000873

Mailing Address: 2300 Bloomdale Road, McKinney, Texas 75071

Name/Title/Address of Project Contact: Sammy Knapp, Constable Precinct 3
920 East Park Boulevard, Plano, Texas 75074

Contact Phone #: (972) 881-3070 E-mail: SKnapp@co.collin.tx.us

Amount of Request: \$ 28,475 Project Name: _____

Conducted Energy Device Equipment for Collin County Constables

Counties in which Project Services are Provided: Collin

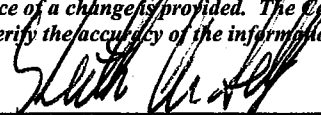
The following typed narrative MUST accompany this application:

- Organization's Statement of Purpose
- Project Description (1 page maximum)
- Project Goals/Objectives (1 page maximum)
- Explanation of how funds will be used (1 page maximum)
- Identification and status of other funding requests for this project (if applicable)

If applicable or available, the following documents MUST accompany this application:

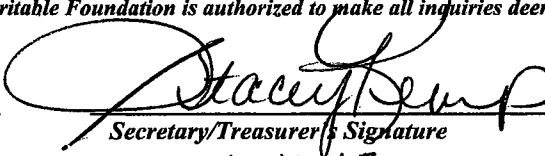
- IRS tax-exempt documentation
- Current year's budget/cash flow statements
- Most recent Form 990 submitted to the IRS
- List of board of directors and their addresses
- Last annual report
- Last 2 audit reports
- 3 letters of recommendation

The information contained in this application is for the purpose of obtaining funding from the CoServ Charitable Foundation on behalf of the undersigned. Each undersigned represents and warrants that the information is true and complete and that the CoServ Charitable Foundation may consider this information is true and correct until a written notice of a change is provided. The CoServ Charitable Foundation is authorized to make all inquiries deemed necessary to verify the accuracy of the information.



President/Chairman's Signature

6/11/13
Date



Secretary/Treasurer's Signature

6-11-13
Date



MAY 17, 2013

Johnny Thomason
Deputy Chief of Police
Allen Police Department
Support Services Division

Mr. Dennis Engelke
Executive Director
CoServ Charitable Foundation
7701 South Stemmons
Corinth, Texas 76210-1842

Dear Engelke;

This letter is a recommendation that Constable Sammy Knapp, Constable of Precinct Three, Collin County, Texas be considered for being equipped with the Taser (Electronic Control Device). The Allen Police Departments equips all one hundred and twenty two sworn officers with the Taser. In my opinion these devices have served us well.

The Allen Police Department began using Tasers about five years ago. We sent two officers to the Taser Instructor class and those two officers have trained all sworn personnel on the use of this device. Officers were given the option during the training of "Taking a hit" or not. "Taking a hit" meant that the officer would allow himself or herself to actually be hit by the charged electrodes. Taser recommends that officers be re-trained annually and recommends that each officer fire two rounds of electrodes into a target. Our electrodes have a 25 feet range.

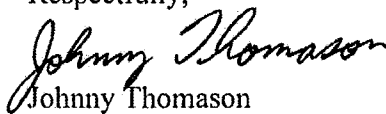
Allen police officers are equipped with a side firearm, Taser, OC spray and a ASP (collapsible baton) for protection and use of force situations. The Taser has reduced injuries in our officers as well as to suspects. When the Taser is deployed properly it gives a shock of five seconds and then stops. The pain is immediate but also stops at the end of five seconds. The officer has the ability to apply additional shock should the suspect continue to be non-compliant. The OC spray when deployed affects everyone in the immediate area and if it is indoors has the potential of entering the air conditioning ducts and can travel throughout the building. The ASP even when deployed properly can leave bruising and pain can be felt for a period of time. Of course the Taser would not take the place of the sidearm in a deadly force situation.



The Taser induces neuromuscular incapacitation to subjects that are submitted through the electrodes. This causes an uncontrollable reaction or freeze of the muscles that incapacitates the individual so that they can be handcuffed and restrained. This works on persons that are under the influence of drugs, alcohol or that are having a mental episode. Again, when the officer achieves voluntary compliance there is no need for additional stunning. Another advantage of the Taser is its reputation. We have encountered many instances where subjects were contemplating resisting or fighting our officers. When the Taser is presented, the person voluntarily complies with the officer to prevent from being stunned. See attached for a better explanation.

With the City of Allen being exclusively in the Precinct Three Constables Office of Collin County I would recommend these devices for the officer's protection. I truly believe that they will be beneficial to the Deputy Constables in the performance of their duties.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Thomason". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "T".

Johnny Thomason
Deputy Chief of Police
Allen Police Department

Neuromuscular Incapacitation

- The Taser is a weapon that uses an electrical discharge to temporarily interrupt a target's voluntary control of his muscles. The gun works by disrupting the nervous system, which is essentially an organic electricity grid. The resulting state is technically called neuromuscular incapacitation (NMI). While in the state of NMI, the "stunned" individual experiences an inability of the brain's electric signals to reach and control body muscles, with the overall effect of being involuntarily immobilized and incapacitated. The initial sensation to the Taser's electric charge is pain, but this quickly turns into an awkward and possibly alarming condition of muscle spasms, confusion and an involuntary movement. Typical reactions include falling to the ground, screaming and vertigo. When used appropriately, all these effects of a Taser weapon dissipate in a matter of seconds or minutes.

Read more: The Effects of Taser Gun | eHow http://www.ehow.com/how-does_4923539_effects-taser-gun.html#ixzz2TYgMWWoA



Memorandum

To: Mr. Dennis Engelke
From: Sergeant Chad Barker
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013
Reference: Taser Recommendation

I am writing to you to express my support for conducted electrical weapons, specifically Taser, and provide an overview of how they have benefited our agency. I am a Master Taser Instructor for my department and have been certifying officers in Taser use since 2008. The McKinney Police Department currently employs 162 sworn officers and each officer is required to carry the Taser while in uniform.

In 2007, we saw a spike in the number of on-the-job injuries. The costs associated with the following surgeries and overtime costs for shift coverage had a negative effect on our agencies ability to carry out its mission, which is; to make McKinney a safe place to live, work and visit. Since 2008, we have had an overall reduction in the number of officer injuries related to physical confrontations. I believe the deployment of Tasers department wide is the largest contributing factor to this reduction.

Various reputable studies from the National Institute of Justice, American Academy of Emergency Medicine, Police Executive Research Forum and Wake Forest University all conclude that Tasers are safe and effective in reducing both suspect and officer injuries.

Finally, it is my opinion that Tasers offer the user a force option that cannot be duplicated. It enables the user to control aggressive or violent individuals at a safe distance without having to resort to a higher level of force. I fully support Taser when responsible use, training and policy are implemented. This tool can greatly contribute to the success of any law enforcement agency that has direct contact with the general public.

city of plano  police department

Gregory W. Rushin
Chief of Police

909 14th Street
P.O. Box 860358
Plano, Texas 75086-0358
972-424-5678

May 17, 2013

Dennis Engelke, Executive Director
CoServ Charitable Foundation
7701 South Stemmons
Corinth, Texas 76210-1842

Dear Mr. Engelke:


Please accept this recommendation letter as my support of the Collin County Constable's Office to obtain TASERS as an additional tool to be used for their law enforcement purposes.

In an effort to provide as many less lethal use of force options for our officers as possible, our department has purchased a number of TASERS in recent years. We have done this so that we can try to prevent and/or lessen injuries and risks to suspects or prisoners.

A benefit to having TASERS is that their presence in some cases by itself deters violence by offenders. It also provides an intermediary use of force option so greater force is not necessary, and it prevents or lessens injuries to both offenders and officers."

If you need additional information, or if I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me via email at greg@plano.gov or by telephone at (972) 941-2114.

Sincerely,



Gregory W. Rushin
Chief of Police

GWR/mw





COLLIN COUNTY

Constable, Precinct 3
920 E. Park Blvd.
Suite 230
Plano, Texas 75074
www.collincountytx.gov

June 10, 2013

Mr. Dennis Engelke
Executive Director
CoServ Charitable Foundation
7701 South Stemmons
Corinth, Texas 76210-1842

Dear Mr. Engelke:

Collin County Constables' Offices serve as the bailiff and provide security for the four Justice of the Peace courts and their respective buildings throughout the county and function as the chief civil and criminal process server. As such, they are frequently involved in confrontational situations where officers, offenders, and bystanders can be injured.

Given the mission of the CoServ Charitable Foundation to support public safety, the Collin County Constables' Offices respectfully submit a proposal for \$28,475 to purchase conducted energy devices, providing officers with an additional option in the force continuum, which have been shown to reduce injury rates for both officers and offenders. With your support, the Constables' Offices will be able to improve public safety while minimizing injury to all parties involved, including bystanders.

If you need any further information, please feel free to contact Sammy Knapp, Constable Precinct 3, at (972) 881-3070 or SKnapp@co.collin.tx.us. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Keith Self
Collin County Judge