

TOWN OF BURNSVILLE

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David Nixon, Mayor
Aldermen: Jason Blakney, Niesha Carpenter, Robert Davis, Billy Don Hamm, Denise Timbes
Tracy Roaten, Municipal Clerk

April 14, 2025

The Honorable Trent Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
2243 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kelly,

I am writing to offer my full support for the Tishomingo County Sheriff Department's request for funding through the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program to upgrade essential law enforcement equipment. This is a necessary and urgent investment in the safety and well-being of our entire community.

Many of the department's existing critical tools and resources are outdated or in short supply. The officers need reliable equipment – patrol vehicles, firearms, and technology, to aid their ability to respond quickly and safely to the community's increasing demands.

New patrol vehicles can assist in improving response time and allow for greater visibility in high-risk areas. Updated protective gear, firearms, communications systems, and equipment like body cameras increase officer safety as well as allow for greater law enforcement transparency and public accountability.

I am confident that the Tishomingo County Sheriff's Department will make the best use of the COPS grant to strengthen community safety, improve public trust, and promote positive interactions between law enforcement and residents.

Our small Town relies on the support of the Tishomingo County Sheriff's Department to assist our community safely and professionally. On behalf of the Town of Burnsville, I respectfully urge your support for this project and ask that you include the department's COPS equipment funding request among your FY26 community project priorities.

Thank you for your continued dedication to law enforcement and public safety across Mississippi. I look forward to seeing the positive results that will result from this grant.

Sincerely,



David Nixon
Mayor
Town of Burnsville

KELSEY SMITH
CITY CLERK

RANDY STRINGER
CHIEF OF POLICE

BLAKE MELTON
FIRE CHIEF

BRAD HOLLON
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR



CITY OF IUKA

KENNY CARSON, MAYOR

BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CASEY JOHNSON
JOHNNY SOUTHWARD
NANCY STRIPLING
EMILY BELL
SANDRA PERKINS

April 14, 2025

The Honorable Trent Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
2243 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kelly,

I am writing to offer my full support for Tishomingo County Sheriff's Department request for funding through the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program to upgrade essential law enforcement equipment. I see this investment as not only necessary but urgent for the safety and well-being of our entire community.

The requested funding would allow our department to modernize critical tools—such as patrol vehicles, firearms, and law enforcement technology—that directly impact officer effectiveness and public safety. Right now, many of these resources are outdated or stretched thin, putting additional strain on officers and limiting their ability to respond quickly and safely.

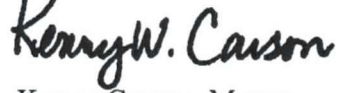
New patrol cars will improve response times and officer visibility in high-risk areas. Updated firearms and protective gear will ensure our officers are equipped to handle increasingly dangerous situations. And new technology—like body cameras, communication systems, and data analysis tools—will increase transparency, accountability, and efficiency in law enforcement operations.

This is a smart and responsible use of taxpayer dollars. Upgrading our law enforcement equipment isn't just about hardware—it's about giving officers the tools they need to protect and serve effectively, and giving our community the peace of mind that we are investing in safety, trust, and long-term resilience.

On behalf of the City of Iuka Mayor and Board of Alderman, I respectfully urge your support for this project and ask that you include the Tishomingo County Sheriff's Department COPS equipment funding request among your FY26 community project priorities.

Thank you for your continued dedication to law enforcement and public safety across Mississippi.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenny W. Carson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The first name "Kenny" is written with a large, looping 'K'. The middle initial "W." is written in a smaller, more compact cursive. The last name "Carson" is written with a large, sweeping 'C' and a trailing flourish.

Kenny Carson, Mayor

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Subject: Support for Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office Grant Application

Dear Whom it may concern,

I trust this message finds you in good spirits. This is regarding the Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office grant application for Transportation and Technology Enhancement. I am wholeheartedly committed to offering my support for this vital endeavor.

Understanding the critical importance of resources in law enforcement, I believe that the grant being pursued will significantly enhance the operational abilities of the Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office. The acquisition of Police Interceptor Vehicles, dash cameras, vehicle computer systems, and associated equipment is not a matter of convenience; it is an urgent necessity for ensuring the safety and security of our officers and our communities.

In Tishomingo County there is the issue of aging and unreliable police vehicles. These items could impede the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts but could also compromise the safety of both officers and civilians. It is imperative that we take proactive measures to address these issues, and securing this grant represents a pivotal opportunity to do so. I commend Jamie Stewart and the Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office for their steadfast commitment to excellence and service. Their dedication to the welfare of our community is clear, and I am proud to stand with you in pursuit of this grant.

Please find the letter of support on my letterhead, as per your request. Should you require any further assistance or advocacy on my part, please do not hesitate to reach out.

With utmost sincerity and support,



Tamara Pharr
Agency Principal, Mc-Wright Insurance Group, LLC. &
President of The Belmont Promotional Association





April 11, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my support for the Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office grant application for Transportation and Technology Enhancement. I believe that securing this grant will not only fulfill critical equipment needs but also allow for the allocation of funds to other necessary items within the department.

Understanding the budgetary challenges faced by law enforcement agencies, I commend the Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office for pursuing this grant as a strategic solution to address equipment needs. By obtaining funding for Police Interceptor Vehicles, dash cameras, vehicle computer systems, and related equipment, the department can reallocate existing resources to address additional needs effectively.

As a member of the community, I recognize the importance of supporting initiatives that enhance the operational capabilities of our Sheriff's Office. Enclosed, please find the letter of support on my letterhead, as requested. If there is any further assistance, I can provide to support the grant application process, please let me know.

With sincere support,

Brandon Pharr

Vice Mayor/Alderman

662-279-0906



TISHOMINGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1008 Battleground Drive, Iuka, MS 38852

Phone: 662.423.7032

Fax: 662.423.7005

Eric Booker
First District

Nicky McRae
Second
District Vice-
President

April 11, 2025

Michael Busby
Third District
President

Jeff Holt

Fourth District

Greg Collier

Fifth District

Re: Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office/Transportation and Technology Enhancement Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Tishomingo County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that our Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office receive funding for patrol vehicles and technological equipment. This project will allow them to keep up with the increasingly advanced techniques used in today's criminal activities. Tishomingo County is a rural county that covers 444 square miles with limited financial resources. Without grant assistance, TCSO is unable to purchase these vehicles and technology to enhance our community and improve our interaction with citizens.

Our Sheriff's Office strives every day to make our community safe and does its best with the resources available to them. This grant would allow them to reach a higher level of safety, community response and will aid in strengthening our entire community. Thank you for considering this grant request. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael Busby, President
Tishomingo County Board of Supervisors

"Award Winning Public Private Partnership"

Tishomingo County Development Authority Tishomingo County Development Foundation

Tishomingo County Tourism Council www.tishomingo.org www.tishomingofunhere.org

1001 Battleground Drive | Iuka, Mississippi 38852 USA | 662-423-9933 | 662-423-0051 | info@tishomingo.org

April 11, 2025

Re: Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office/Transportation and Technology Enhancement Project

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this as acknowledgement of our full support of the Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office COPS grant application, entitled Transportation and Technology Enhancement.

Tishomingo County covers a large geographic area as much as 40 miles from the north boundary to the south boundary. The county is also geographically divided by the Tenn-Tom Waterway, Pickwick Lake, Bay Springs Lake, and the Natchez Trace Parkway that makes travel from one point to another within the county a greater challenge. To make matters more difficult, the most significant population concentrations within the county are located in the north and south ends of the county. The sheriff's department law enforcement staff is spread incredibly thin over such a large and fractured geography.

Tishomingo County had a 76.9% manufacturing job growth rate over the past 12 years compared to 11.6% for the USA and is projected to grow faster than the national rate for the next ten years. This record job growth means that Tishomingo County is experiencing an influx of new workers that vary from undocumented migrants to rocket scientists. Combined with a severe housing shortage, this influx of new workers presents a growing challenge to local law enforcement. Further, some of the new jobs are in national defense related industries such as rocket parts, parts for the F-35 fighter jet, and other classified defense-related projects. Defense-related projects often require greater diligence from local law enforcement agencies.

Another issue that creates a unique challenge to the Tishomingo County Sheriff's Department is the growing influx of tourists. 900,000 documented visitors per year enjoy Tishomingo County's 50,000 acres of lakes, seven marinas, two state parks, 12 Corps of Engineers parks, one national park, four museums, eight retirement and vacation communities, and proximity to urban areas.

As the Tishomingo County Development Foundation Executive Director, I am responsible for fostering community and economic development in the area. We recognize the importance of public safety and the benefits of this type of transportation and technology for both law enforcement and the community. A safe and stable community is extremely important, and this funding will make a measurable contribution to both.

Thank you for your consideration of this project request.

Sincerely,

