

Mark Dannels
Sheriff

Tom Alinen
Chief of Staff

Office of the Sheriff Cochise County



To: Jeffrey Glover, Colonel
Arizona Department of Public Safety

From: Mark Dannels, Sheriff *MD*
Cochise County Sheriff's Office

Date: September 20, 2024

Re: Local Border Support Request

During 2024, the legislature and the Governor appropriated \$17,232,900 for the Arizona Department of Public Safety to award to local jurisdictions for local border support. The monies are to fund local law enforcement officer positions for border drug interdiction to deter and apprehend any individuals who are charged with drug trafficking, human smuggling, illegal immigration, and border related crimes. Also to provide support for prosecution and detaining these individuals that commit these crimes. Of the 15 counties in the State of Arizona, four (4) of those counties are on the international border with Mexico. Cochise County is one of those counties responsible for 83 miles of that border with federal, state, and local partners.

Cochise County Sheriff's Office has developed special units to combat border related crimes. Sheriff deputies make up two of these units which are the Local Border Support (LBS) and Criminal Interdiction Team (CIT). The CIT unit was developed with border funding through Arizona Department of Emergency Management and Military Affairs (DEMA). Unfortunately, the DEMA funding for the CIT unit will end June 30, 2025. It is our proposal to blend the LBS and CIT deputies into one LBS unit with prosecutorial and incarceration support to meet the demands of the LBS funding but also target the illicit flow of fentanyl into our communities. Cochise County Sheriff's Office has a proven record in investigating and apprehending individuals involved in narcotics smuggling and border crimes. The following reflect the incarceration and current LBS/CIT Unit Activities for 2023 and 2024 to date:

Cochise County Jail, January 2024 to present:

Total bookings: 2,645
Border Crimes: 883
ARS 13-2323A5 (human smuggling): 202
Failure to yield (pursuits): 116
Juvenile Arrests: 37
True Incarceration Costs (January to July 30): \$2,206,360

Cochise County Jail 2023:

Total bookings: 3871
Border Crimes: 1530
ARS 2323A5 (human smuggling): 427
FTY: 234

Juveniles: 55
 True Incarceration Costs (January to Dec 31): \$5,183,623

CCSO Criminal Interdiction Team 2024 (January to June):

Traffic Stops: 1652
 Arrests: 213
 Undocumented Individuals contacted: 149
 Failure to Yield: 25
 Fentanyl Pills seized: 169
 Meth seized: 52.7g
 Cocaine seized: 12.36 g
 Vehicle Impounds: 40

CCSO Criminal Interdiction Team 2023:

Traffic Stops: 2594
 Human Smuggling Cases: 231
 Smuggler Arrests: 136
 Undocumented Individuals Contacted: 1458
 Failure to Yield: 126
 Fentanyl Pills seized: 3631
 Meth seized: 1.83 lbs.
 Cocaine seized: 3.8 g
 Vehicle Impounds: 125

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office and County Attorney's Office is requesting \$2,220,189.90 in LBS funding to continue fighting border criminal activities. The request as follows:

Local Border Support - 2024 Funding thru AZDPS Agreement							
Cochise County Sheriff's Office and County Attorney's Office							
Postion	Salary	YR25 Raise	Salary and 3%	ERE	Health/Dental	ERE Total	Total Salary
Captain	\$ 115,581.00	\$ 3,468.00	\$ 119,049.00	66%	\$ 7,419.00	\$85,991.34	\$ 205,040.34
Sergeant	\$ 89,058.00	\$ 2,672.00	\$ 91,730.00	66%	\$ 7,419.00	\$67,960.80	\$ 159,690.80
Sergeant	\$ 89,058.00	\$ 2,672.00	\$ 91,730.00	66%	\$ 7,419.00	\$67,960.80	\$ 159,690.80
Deputy 1	\$ 75,275.00	\$ 2,259.00	\$ 77,534.00	66%	\$ 7,419.00	\$58,591.44	\$ 136,125.44
Deputy 2	\$ 75,275.00	\$ 2,259.00	\$ 77,534.00	66%	\$ 7,419.00	\$58,591.44	\$ 136,125.44
Deputy 3	\$ 75,275.00	\$ 2,259.00	\$ 77,534.00	66%	\$ 7,419.00	\$58,591.44	\$ 136,125.44
Deputy 4	\$ 75,275.00	\$ 2,259.00	\$ 77,534.00	66%	\$ 7,419.00	\$58,591.44	\$ 136,125.44
Deputy 5	\$ 75,275.00	\$ 2,259.00	\$ 77,534.00	66%	\$ 7,419.00	\$58,591.44	\$ 136,125.44
Deputy 6	\$ 75,275.00	\$ 2,259.00	\$ 77,534.00	66%	\$ 7,419.00	\$58,591.44	\$ 136,125.44
Deputy 7	\$ 75,275.00	\$ 2,259.00	\$ 77,534.00	66%	\$ 7,419.00	\$58,591.44	\$ 136,125.44
Deputy 8	\$ 75,275.00	\$ 2,259.00	\$ 77,534.00	66%	\$ 7,419.00	\$58,591.44	\$ 136,125.44
Deputy 9	\$ 75,275.00	\$ 2,259.00	\$ 77,534.00	66%	\$ 7,419.00	\$58,591.44	\$ 136,125.44
Attorney IV	\$125,000.00	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 128,750.00	25%	\$ 6,708.00	\$32,738.00	\$ 168,198.00
Legal Secretary III	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 46,350.00	20%	\$ 6,708.00	\$ 9,383.00	\$ 62,441.00
					Personnel Costs		\$ 1,980,189.90
Estimated Overtime Costs							\$ 100,000.00
Border Crimes Incaration Costs at \$78 per DEMA Inmate rate with estimated total of 1530 inmates							\$ 120,000.00
Total Cost							\$ 2,200,189.90

We are not requesting any funds for equipment, only personnel, jail, and overtime costs. We realize that stopping the flow of fentanyl needs to be prioritized by all federal, state, and local intel analysts' working out of our Border Intelligence Operations Center in Sierra Vista, Arizona. Since 2023 over 900 pounds of fentanyl has been seized in Cochise County. This highlights the necessity for specialty units to combat the flow of illegal narcotics and human smuggling in Cochise County. As intelligence is developed on cartel distribution networks, our combined LBS team can target those undesirable elements for prosecution and incarceration.

The flow of illegal border crossers is not slowing down. In 2023, Cochise County Sheriff's Office Southern Arizona Border Region Enforcement cameras along the entire Arizona/Mexico border captured 40,479 illegal border crossers of which 10,256 were apprehended by Federal Agents. There is no foreseeable future, if ever, that smuggling, and crime will cease along the international border in Cochise County.