



U.S. SENATOR JOHN CORNYN  
STATE of TEXAS

## Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations Request Form

- Please fill out this form thoroughly and completely.
- If you are requesting funding for multiple projects, please complete and submit a separate form.
- Please e-mail completed form and all supporting documentation to the appropriate staff contact **no later than close of business on Friday March 5, 2010**. Forms may also be faxed to (202) 224-5220.
- Senator Cornyn is committed to instituting greater transparency in the federal budget process and all funding requests from Senator Cornyn to the Appropriations Committee are made available to the public.
- Feel free to provide any supplemental material that would be helpful for the appropriations request process.

1. PROJECT NAME			
Project Name	Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office Substation Proposal		
Organization	Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department		
Brief Description	To build a Hidalgo County Sheriff's substation in the southwestern portion of the county in an area northwest of Mission, Texas along the South Texas Border to provide protection and safety to rural areas of Hidalgo County currently underserved due to the great distance from the main Sheriff's Station.		
Statement of Purpose (one sentence)	To provide protection and safety to rural areas of Hidalgo County currently underserved due to the great distance from the main Sheriff's Station.		
2. CONTACT INFORMATION			
Texas or Organization Contact			
Name	Guadalupe Trevino	Title	
Address	711 El Cibolo Road Edinburg, Texas 78541	Telephone Number	956-383-8114
		Facsimile Number	Cell: 956-457-1696
		Email Address	956-393-6179
Washington, D.C. Contact (if applicable)			
Name		Title	
Address		Telephone Number	
		Facsimile Number	
		Email Address	

### 3. PROJECT DETAILS AND FUNDING INFORMATION

#### PROJECT DETAILS

A. Appropriation bill in which you are seeking funds.

B. Federal agency under which this project falls.

C. List the specific appropriation account.

D. Indicate all counties, regions (Southeast, West, Central, etc.) affected by this project or whether it provides a statewide benefit.

Hidalgo County

E. Identify the Congressional District in which the project will be located.

Cuellar - District 28

#### FUNDING INFORMATION

F. Amount of federal funding requested for this project in Fiscal Year 2011.

\$4,265,770

G. Total Project Cost \$4,265,770

H. Federal Share (amount and percent) \$4,265,770 100%

I. Non Federal Share (amount and percent) \$0 0%

J. Included in President's Budget? (amount) No

K. Provide an estimate of future anticipated funding requests for this project by fiscal year.

A budget is attached.

L. Has this project received prior federal appropriations? If yes, cite fiscal year, amount and Public Law.

No

M. What other sources of federal funding have been/will be explored? How much will each of these funding sources contribute?

Funding sources have been sought without success

N. Are any other institutions or organizations (public or private) providing funding for this project? If so, please list the amounts and overall percentage of each contributor.

None

### 4. TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

A. Has this project been authorized? If yes, cite the relevant Act.

B. Is this project included in the State's Transportation Improvement Plan or local/regional transportation plan?

C. If this is a transportation request, have you confirmed that you are an eligible recipient under the requested account?

D. If this is a housing (EDI, CDBG) request, please explain how the project will principally benefit low or moderate income individuals and/or communities.

**5. PLEASE PROVIDE BELOW OR ATTACH AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT**

**Please include specific details on the following topics; attach supporting documents if necessary:**

**A. Itemization of how the requested funds will be used. Please be specific.**

Projected Budget		Timeline
Engineer/ Architect (8% Project Cost)	\$ 303,600	12/2011
II. Topographic Survey	\$ 15,000	12/2011
III. Geotechnical Survey	\$ 12,828	12/2011
IV. Civil Engineer Servis	\$ 119,342	12/2011
V. Material Testing	\$ 20,000	12/2011
VI. Construction	\$3,795,000	12/2012
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,265,770</b>	

**B. Describe how the project benefits the local community/state. Which cities/counties would benefit from funding?**

Hidalgo is one of the fastest growing areas within the United States. According to the US Census 2008 Estimates, the County of Hidalgo has grown substantially from 569,463 in 2000 to 742,062 in 2008. Hidalgo County is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest populated county in Texas serving an area of 1570 square miles. The Sheriff's Department provides protection to all the rural areas of the County of Hidalgo and must travel from their main station in Edinburg across the 1570 square miles to provide protection. This does not allow for sufficient protection for individuals living in rural areas that abut urbanized areas. City police departments provide police protection to areas within city limits if they have the resources available with city funds to hire personnel for 24 hours protection and safety. If the Sheriff's Department has sufficient personnel available they may provide protection to rural cities that do not have 24 hour police protection but the Sheriff's Department primary responsibility is to provide protection to rural areas.

Although the Sheriff's Department is centrally located, located in northern Edinburg, in Hidalgo County for rural areas the travel time from one end of the county line to the other is over 30 minutes according to Google maps. Traveling to areas in Western Hidalgo County such as Sullivan City and Penitas can take anywhere from 36 minutes to 58 minutes with favorable traffic according to Google maps. Obviously the travel time involved delays substantially the response to crimes committed in rural areas. The Sheriff's Department has attempted to utilize creative means to reduce travel time and serve the rural areas such as creating new patrol districts but it has not been sufficient to meet the need. Once criminals are arrested the Sheriff's Deputies must transport the criminals to the central station. Also the deputies must travel to the central Edinburg station at shift changes. Based on travel time it means that the rural areas such as Sullivan City and Penitas are exposed as deputies travel in for one hour and the next shift travels back out to the area.

To resolve this critical issue, the Sheriff's Department has proposed to build a substation in Western Hidalgo County, in Northern Mission to allow for quicker response rates and thus greater protection for the citizens of the County of Hidalgo. It is expected this will reduce crime in the rural area as officers will be located closer to the community and will allow for a Community Oriented Policing Unit. Travel time would be reduced by approximately half to approximately 34 minutes. Deputies required to report to substation center would be able to return back to patrol more quickly. Deputies arresting an individual or transporting a suspect would have a shorter distance to travel and turn-around time would be reduced. Residents requiring services or needing to go by the Sheriff's Office would be closer to their home area. These same residents would be expected to develop a feeling of being more secure in their homes knowing that a Sheriff's Office operational center is close by and that the response time is going to be quicker. In order for residents not to feel so detached from their responding law enforcement agency, the Sheriff is also proposing the creation of a community meeting room in the proposed substation. This would

provide local community leaders, non-profit organizations, and neighborhood groups an area where they could meet and also interact with the local command staff assigned to their area. The substation would also house a Community Oriented Policing Unit. This unit would be able to respond to a troubled community. This would provide increased visibility and a shorter response time without the delay currently being experienced of having to crisscross the county. In addition, the substation would also serve as a receiving station for persons committed to the county jail which would also provide a better service to other law enforcement agencies within the county area, by allowing the local police departments to deliver prisoners to the substation thus also reducing their travel time and allowing their staff to return to their duty stations more quickly

It should be noted that aside from the substantial population growth experienced by the County of Hidalgo, the County is located along the Rio Grande River and the border of Mexico. The Sheriff's Department is the first line of defense for rural along with the Border Patrol against incurrence from outside of the United States. The political unrest currently in Mexico located within miles of American citizens' homes has made this request critical to the citizens of Hidalgo County.

C. What is the national significance of the project and why should taxpayer dollars be used to support the project?

The project is a concern because of the system is part of the protection of the Texas border along the Rio Grande River.

D. To be considered for federal funding, you must include documents or letters of support from state and local entities.

E. Please estimate the number of jobs that would be created as a result of funding, and include the methodology used to attain this number.



U.S. SENATOR JOHN CORNYN  
STATE of TEXAS

## Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations Request Form

- Please fill out this form thoroughly and completely.
- If you are requesting funding for multiple projects, please complete and submit a separate form.
- Please e-mail completed form and all supporting documentation to the appropriate staff contact **no later than close of business on Friday March 5, 2010**. Forms may also be faxed to (202) 224-5220.
- Senator Cornyn is committed to instituting greater transparency in the federal budget process and all funding requests from Senator Cornyn to the Appropriations Committee are made available to the public.
- Feel free to provide any supplemental material that would be helpful for the appropriations request process.

1. PROJECT NAME			
Project Name	Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office Radio Communication Proposal		
Organization	Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department		
Brief Description	<p>The Sheriff's Department provides protection to all the rural areas of the County of Hidalgo. The communication system being used is an antiquated radio communication system – a VHF analog system . It is one of the oldest systems still being utilized by Public Safety Organizations which is analogous to an individual using with an eight (8)-track radio system as opposed to an I-Pod. To update the current system the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office proposes to implement an 800 MHz, digital P- 25 capable Trunking radio communication system that is scalability to meet the emergency communication needs of the Sheriff's Department, and County Administrative Offices.</p>		
Statement of Purpose (one sentence)	<p>To update the current system the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office proposes to implement an 800 MHz, digital P- 25 capable Trunking radio communication system that is scalability to meet the emergency communication needs of the Sheriff's Department, and County Administrative Offices.</p>		
2. CONTACT INFORMATION			
Texas or Organization Contact			
Name	Guadalupe Trevino	Title	
Address	711 El Cibolo Road Edinburg, Texas 78541	Telephone Number	956-383-8114 Cell: 956-457-1696
		Facsimile Number	956-393-6179

		Email Address	
<b>Washington, D.C. Contact (if applicable)</b>			
Name		Title	
Address		Telephone Number	
		Facsimile Number	
		Email Address	

### 3. PROJECT DETAILS AND FUNDING INFORMATION

#### PROJECT DETAILS

A. Appropriation bill in which you are seeking funds.

B. Federal agency under which this project falls.

C. List the specific appropriation account.

D. Indicate all counties, regions (Southeast, West, Central, etc.) affected by this project or whether it provides a statewide benefit.

Hidalgo County

E. Identify the Congressional District in which the project will be located.

Cuellar - District 28

#### FUNDING INFORMATION

F. Amount of federal funding requested for this project in Fiscal Year 2011.

\$11,452,092

G. Total Project Cost	\$11,452,092
-----------------------	--------------

H. Federal Share (amount and percent)	\$11,452,092	100%
---------------------------------------	--------------	------

I. Non Federal Share (amount and percent)	\$0	0%
---	-----	----

J. Included in President's Budget? (amount)	No
---	----

K. Provide an estimate of future anticipated funding requests for this project by fiscal year.

A budget is attached.

L. Has this project received prior federal appropriations? If yes, cite fiscal year, amount and Public Law.

No

M. What other sources of federal funding have been/will be explored? How much will each of these funding sources contribute?

Funding sources have been sought without success

N. Are any other institutions or organizations (public or private) providing funding for this project? If so, please list the amounts and overall percentage of each contributor.

None

### 4. TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

A. Has this project been authorized? If yes, cite the relevant Act.

B. Is this project included in the State's Transportation Improvement Plan or local/regional transportation plan?

C. If this is a transportation request, have you confirmed that you are an eligible recipient under the requested account?

D. If this is a housing (EDI, CDBG) request, please explain how the project will principally benefit low or moderate income individuals and/or communities.

**5. PLEASE PROVIDE BELOW OR ATTACH AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT**

**Please include specific details on the following topics; attach supporting documents if necessary:**

**A. Itemization of how the requested funds will be used. Please be specific.**

Projected Budget	.....	Timeline
		(Implementation/Purchase)
		..... 12/2012

A detailed budget quote is attached.

**B. Describe how the project benefits the local community/state. Which cities/counties would benefit from funding?**

This request is a matter of national security and the security of residents of Hidalgo County.

Hidalgo is one of the fastest growing areas within the United States. According to the US Census 2008 Estimates, the County of Hidalgo has grown substantially from 569,463 in 2000 to 742,062 in 2008. Hidalgo County is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest populated county in Texas serving an area of 1570 square miles. The Sheriff's Department provides protection to all the rural areas of the County of Hidalgo. The communication system being used is an antiquated radio communication system – a VHF analog system . It is one of the oldest systems still being utilized by Public Safety Organizations which is analogous to an individual using with an eight (8)-track radio system as opposed to an I-Pod. To update the current system the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office proposes to implement an 800 MHz, digital P- 25 capable Trunking radio communication system that is scalability to meet the emergency communication needs of the Sheriff's Department, and County Administrative Offices.

***CURRENT SYSTEM:***

The Sheriff's Office current communication system consists of five (5) single frequency repeaters distributed throughout four different locations in Hidalgo County. The three main channels operate out of two leased towers. The East Sector operates with one repeater out of a tower located in the Elsa area. The West Sector primary repeater and the information repeater used by constables and other units requiring information are located at the main tower located on Monte Cristo Rd and Rooth Rd in Edinburg. The other two sites are a water tower in the City of La Joya where a back-up repeater is set up for the West Sector, and at the Sheriff's Office located at EI Cibolo Road where the jail's repeater is located. During 2005 the Sheriff's Office was able to acquire five (5) new repeaters from a 2004 Homeland Security Grant. Although the repeaters are new and were desperately needed, they still operate in conventional mode utilizing old VHF radio frequencies and analog technology. With the Conventional mode the repeater at the tower site opens up when a mobile or portable radio is keyed, and the message is transmitted. During this initial transmission, all other mobiles and portables cannot transmit, since any other transmissions will create interference with the on-going transmission resulting in both transmissions failing. Thus Deputies on either west or east sectors can only transmit one at a time in their respective sectors.

***PROBLEM AND MAJOR CONCERNS:***

The greatest concern with the present communication system is officer safety and the officer's capacity to communicate and respond to citizen needs in an emergency situation. Currently there are several areas in the County that have communication reception holes where radio communication drops. Communication capacity is compromised in various situations in particular when a deputy must leave the patrol unit, and depend on the portable radio. Most portables operate with a low wattage of approximately 3 to 5 watts, which many times are not sufficient to trigger

emergency or in a hostile situation with no communication and means of accessing back up. Deputies have advised us that this is a common occurrence. The lack of communication can be complicated by incimate weather or when the officer must enter a building to deal with domestic situation, to inspect a building, or to pursue a suspect. Once a deputy enters a building the radio, receptional transmission is often blocked/interfered by building materials such as wiring, and metal piping or other tall buildings in the direction of the tower site. Since the current conventional analog system depends on only one line of sight between the repeater on the tower and the portable radio for its transmission, any large building or other obstruction can effectively block that transmission.

Security of emergency communications is also a major concern as the current system is not secure and can and is monitored by outside organizations including media and criminal elements which complicate emergency and possibly dangerous situations. Another major concern in particular at the time is the ability of Mexican VHF to interfere with Sheriff's Department communications. Unlike the United States which has Federal Communications Commission (FCC) monitoring a control of radio interference complaints, Mexico has no such controls with the VHF bands. It is not uncommon to have a Mexico VHF radio station break into a Law Enforcement transmission and start conversing. The transmission by the Mexican operator effectively blocks our radio transmission. The Sheriff's Office and other agencies that experience this interference must therefore wait until their traffic is finished in order to conduct our business. Since the United States and Mexico do not have a treaty in place regarding VHF radio band assignment and interference complaints, there is no enforcement that can be conducted. In an emergency situation having a Mexican station break into an agency's communication can create havoc.

In Hidalgo County, three of the larger cities McAllen, Mission, and Edinburg have already made the transition to the 800M Hz band. The City of Pharr is also transitioning to a 800MHz system. With four of the larger cities in Hidalgo County making the transition to this radio band it is only logical that the County of Hidalgo, the single largest entity, follow suit.

The Sheriff's Office, therefore, is proposing the acquisition of a completely new communications system for its communication operations. The System should be P-25 Capable, digital, and an 800 MHz band Trunked network. It should be a system that can accommodate all of the Sheriff's Office current needs, and should allow for expanded future growth.

C. What is the national significance of the project and why should taxpayer dollars be used to support the project?

The project is a concern because of the system is part of the protection of the Texas border along the Rio Grande River.

D. To be considered for federal funding, you must include documents or letters of support from state and local entities.

E. Please estimate the number of jobs that would be created as a result of funding, and include the methodology used to attain this number.