

Date: February 10, 2009

From: Sheriff K. A. Kimbrough, Sr.

To: Chairman Eldrin Bell  
Commissioner Michael Edmondson  
Commissioner Gail Hambrick  
Commissioner Wole Ralph  
Commissioner Sonna Singleton

Subject: Priority Requests for Funding for FYE2011

There are needs within the Sheriff's Office budget that must be considered priority in nature and of serious consequence if not appropriately handled in the very near future. Simply put, there is not enough personnel to meet the demands and obligations of the Sheriff's Office. This includes service process (criminal and civil), service to the various courts, to include the expansion of new courts such as the new Drug Court, DUI court, and additional State Court. Proper staffing levels for the jail population (as it exists both for now and the anticipated future). Further, there are infrastructure issues within the Sheriff's Office that impact daily operations and pose a serious problem, should outright failure occur with any of these areas.

Listed below, in order of priority, are needs that the Sheriff's Office has assessed and feel should be given great consideration for funding in this years budget.

### **Vehicles**

The Sheriff's Office fleet of vehicles are in dire need of attention. The Sheriff's Office currently operates, on a daily basis, 29 vehicles that are in excess of 150,000 miles. Four of these vehicles have over 200,000 miles. Many of these vehicles are driven one shift after another. The condition of the vehicles constitutes a daily safety risk to the Deputies during operation. These vehicles are marked units that respond in emergency situations every day. I have asked for 16 (replacement) vehicles to remove many of the previously mentioned vehicles from service.

### **Personnel Increases/Law Enforcement Staff**

The current number of allotted Deputy Sheriff positions, and corresponding supervisory staff, should also be increased. The addition of sixty three (63) Deputy Sheriffs and corresponding supervisory staff is considered paramount. The Sheriff's Office is in a constant struggle to timely serve all current/active warrants and continue to work on a back log of over 10,000 file warrants. The obvious increase in the county's population in recent years has not been met with proper staffing levels within the Sheriff's Office. To enable the Sheriff's Office to maintain a

proper pace with the generated work load our staffing levels have to be increased to reflect the growth the county has experienced. As a prime example, the Sheriff's Office continues to be inundated with a steady flow of service requests from the courts. We have averaged almost 50,000 annual requests for service on civil processes for the last two years. I have also instituted a zone concept within the County where it is my goal to have two Deputy Sheriff's in each of the eight zones to more efficiently serve criminal and civil processes. When I took office, I immediately instituted a plan to attack the back log of warrants and papers left by the previous administration. We have made steady progress in this effort, but to truly impact these numbers and maintain a level of efficiency with new warrants and papers we need the appropriate level of staff. Another fact to be considered, the Sheriff's Office has not had an increase in Law Enforcement personnel in over 10 years, while the demand on this group has increased exponentially. Support equipment needed for these positions is incorporated within the same form as submitted for correctional positions.

### **Personnel Increases/Correctional Staff**

It is my request that the number of allotted Correctional Officers be increased, and include an appropriate number of corresponding supervisory positions. The addition of forty four (44) Correctional Officers and corresponding supervisory staff is considered imperative to meet current demands. In just the past few months the inmate population within the jail "swelled" to the highest level (almost 2000 inmates) we have seen since moving into the facility 10 years ago. Even at a population of 1500 inmates, our staffing levels are well below the national standards and below that of comparable facilities in the surrounding metro Atlanta area. Proper staffing in this area would drastically reduce the number of overtime hours we currently utilize to maintain safe staffing levels.

### **X-Ray Scanning Units/Court Security**

Scanning units at all check points for the Justice Complex (public entrance, employee entrance, jail loading dock, jail visitor entrance) and the Juvenile Court (public entrance and employee entrance) should be replaced. These units are over nine (9) years old and are unsupported by any warranty or maintenance agreement to offset the high costs of any necessary repairs, where such repairs can be made. As of 2/19/09, one unit was pulled from service for lack of funds to make a repair estimated at over \$7,000. The average price of an x-ray scanner set up to meet needs and requirements specific to our facilities is \$30,000.00.

### **Identix and Mugall Equipment**

The Identix and mugall machines are used 365 days a year to process every inmate that is arrested and brought to our facility. It allows the jail to identify each inmate and perform required fingerprint submission to GCIC and NCIC. We currently average processing 30,000 inmates annually. As these machines age, the propensity for down time increases. When these machines are off line due to malfunction, we have to resort to manually inking and rolling fingerprints and mailing them to the appropriate agencies. As you can imagine, this is an extreme impact on the jail and all agencies we serve. We also use these pieces of equipment to

process over 12,000 civilian applicants every year for pistol permits, background checks, adoption checks and employment purposes.

### **Office Supplies**

I understand that office supplies is often a line item that is thought of as basic needs such as pens, paper, staples, etc. We consider our office supply line item critical this year as we desperately need funds not only for office supplies but to replace many broken chairs and office furnishings that have been continually repaired to the point that they now need replacing.

### **Uniform Allowance**

Unlike the Police Department, who experienced no cut in their uniform budget last year, our uniform budget was cut by \$60,000 dollars. All of our uniform personnel were forced to bear the brunt of this cut. They have survived a whole year by nursing the uniforms they have and replacement items should be issued. When I came into office, I also had to slightly change the uniform scheme and badges in an effort to establish a “new” look, identity and image to break away from the previous administration and all the bad press and thoughts that lingered from bad practices. My Officers desperately need their uniform allowance to be restored to the previous level of 550.00 per each officer, so they can properly maintain a professional image for the Sheriff’s Office and residents of this county. This is the amount each Police Officer received during their department’s allotted FYE 2010 budget.

### **Blackcreek System / Jail Kitchen Repairs/ Inmate Shower Repairs**

The Blackcreek computer system is the backbone for the operation of the Jail’s security system. It operates every door, camera and lock within the building. It also controls access in and out of the building. This system is over 10 years old, and in the words of one technician “one step away from complete failure”. The system is so old the manufacture no longer offers support for the software (it is still running on Windows 98). If this system fails, the resulting situation could be catastrophic. Every door or lock within the facility would have to be manipulated manually. This would result in an overload for personnel and an extremely unsafe situation within the jail for inmates and staff alike. It could take up to 6 weeks for resulting replacement of the system. This is a setting that no one can afford. The system upgrade has been quoted at \$558,000.00. I am aware there has been discussion that this upgrade might be handled through the SPLOST and the integration of the Juvenile Justice Complex that is to be constructed and adjoined to the existing building. If this can be addressed in this manner, this item need not be considered in this budget submission. However, time is critical in this instance and this upgrade needs to be funded the quickest way possible.

As you well know, we have already had to deal with the replacement of several major pieces of equipment within the jail’s kitchen. The replacement of these items just scratched the surface of the many replacements and repairs that are needed to keep the kitchen running and up to code. It is my understanding it is the county’s intent to carry out all the necessary replacements and repairs to the kitchen and some of that work is already in the process. If we can continue with the current improvements it will not be necessary to address these items in this submitted budget.

However if that outlook were to change we have submitted within this budget the costs associated with the completion of these projects.

In closing, I would like to say, I appreciate the opportunity to submit a budget that I feel accurately reflects what I think is needed to catch the Sheriff's Office up to where it needs to be. I realize the requested budget may seem large at first glance. However, with current trends, if the Board of Commissioners were to fund my budget as request, I believe we could hold current within budget and not ask for additional increases for a period of five (5) years.

It is my goal to run an efficient, effective and transparent organization that fully cooperates not only with the Board of Commissioners but with every agency we encounter.

Respectfully,

**SIGNATURE ON ORIGINAL**

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Sheriff Kemuel A. "Kem" Kimbrough, Sr.