

Agency: Alameda County Sherriff's Office  
Application: Law Enforcement, G10-03-27-L01

Request for Two Polaris Ranger (popularly known as "side by sides"), to be used to:

1. monitor and enforce rules limiting illegal off highway vehicle activity in areas where prohibited.
2. assist Carnegie State OHV Park personnel when requested.

The state OHV has vehicles of this type to patrol Carnegie so it is not necessary or useful for the Sherriff's office to tow these units out to the park to assist park personnel.

Given the large geographic area the Alameda County Sheriffs Department patrols , plus the winter weather conditions possible, the addition of this type of vehicle might make sense if there was a real need to limit illegal off highway activity during inclement weather. This is a very large expense for vehicles with very limited use.

Logically, illegal off highway activity is not a poor weather sport. Such abuses would be unlikely and random. Considering the size of the geography it would be extremely difficult for a team the size of which is outlined in the grant request, to appear at the right place at the right time to be effective. Additional personnel and dual sport motorcycles or four wheel drive vehicles would be a better choice. The Sherriff's department already has both of these vehicle types in its fleet.

If one assumes that the Sherriff's department has solid leads on this sort of activity that it must monitor, there are other problems with this grant request.

Although the manufacturer suggests that the outlined vehicles are three and six passenger respectively, and despite the standard three across restraints, the seats will not comfortably seat three normal sized adults. Certainly not while on a rural patrol activity, the purpose for which they are being acquired.

This means the matching funding calculation is not accurate, nor is the request for helmets, gloves and training, unless personnel will be deployed in alternating shifts. Even so, these cannot be night time patrols, so more than two shifts is not practical.

While the need for two vehicles to perform the job professionally, is clear, I question the need for the second vehicle to be a "six" passenger. The requirement for this more expensive unit is not explained in the grant request.

For the dual sport motorcycles purchased with past grant funding, does the Sherriff's office not have helmets and gloves and a source from which to purchase this needed safety equipment? It appears that the same employees will be using the dual sport motorcycles already in service. Expensive additional training is needed?

Questionable need and an excessive allocation of green sticker funds, make this a difficult request to support.

Although I am questioning the specifics in the grant, I am a regular camper at Carnegie State Park and appreciate the job both state park staff and the Sherriff's department deliver.

Diana Mead  
CORVA, Asst. Director Grants.