

2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program Kern County Sheriff's Office's Preliminary Application Comments

Comments submitted by the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division to individual Grant Applicants should in no way be construed as a guarantee of successful results for the Applicant within the competitive Grants process or a commitment of funding. Additionally, the lack of comments by the OHMVR Division to any specific Applicant does not ensure successful results for the Applicant within the competitive Grant process or a commitment of funding.

Failure by the Applicant to respond to any OHMVR Division comment of their preliminary Application may be cause for eliminating that item from the Applicant's final Application.

All final Applications will be reviewed by the OHMVR Division. The OHMVR Division may, at its sole discretion, decrease the requested amount and eliminate activities pursuant with regulation Section 4970.07.2 (f)(1-5) and for Law Enforcement Projects, regulation Section 4970.15.3(b)(1-5).

If multiple proposed Projects are requesting funding for the same deliverable, and multiple projects are successful, only one project will receive funding for the deliverable.

For proposed Projects requesting Grant funding for snow and/or winter activities. Applicants must ensure the activities and/or Equipment/Heavy Equipment/Trailer requested are not and/or cannot be funded by the Department's Winter Program (commonly referred to as the Snow Grooming Program).

For proposed Projects requesting Grant funding for the maintenance of roads and/or trails, note that only roads and/or trails that allow "green sticker" Off-Highway Vehicles are allowed to receive Grant funding.

Applicants are reminded that no Grant funds and/or match can be expended, or Project activities conducted in any land owned or managed by the Department except as allowed in the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program regulations section 4970.09 (b)(11).

Law Enforcement: G26-03-25-L01

Need Assessment

- Item #1 – A need for vehicle with capabilities beyond a basic vehicle is not specified. Applicants must describe why necessary tasks may not be accomplished by existing equipment to accomplish an identified Deliverable.

- Item #2 – The Applicant must identify individual areas/zones and quantify the OHV Recreation facilities, such as the number of OHV trail miles and/or acres of open riding area in each.
- Item #3 – Estimated need for 53 annual deployments is contradicted by consistent practice of reducing staff and vehicle use commitment in final Project Agreements. Ability to deploy personnel at this level has not been demonstrated in past practice. The Applicant is advised to substantiate the expressed needs for patrol time and equipment use costs by describing relevant factual conditions.

Needs Enforcement Certification

- #1 – The Applicant failed to adequately describe the high – priority concerns associated with the identified OHV Recreation areas. Please describe specific OHV safety concerns, such as times when high visitation contributes to congestion and increased risk of collisions and/or other factual conditions.
- #5 – The Applicant must specify how the public is informed if OHV safety programs, such as MSF, ASI and ROHVA courses are available in the area. The Applicant should specify any facilities where safety programs are available in the area and how this information is published.
- #8 –The Applicant must describe department policy regarding enforcement on federal land, which may involve enforcement of federal codes by deputies or state codes by federal officers. Certain provisions of Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (USFS Title 36, BLM Title 43) relating to vehicles may be enforced by State peace officers under CVC 38301. California Penal Code (PEN) § 830.8 requires USFS and BLM LEOs to obtain written consent of the local Sheriff to enforce state statutes into county courts, which would be considered a policy of the Sheriff.
- #10 – Applicant must describe how it is meeting the law enforcement operational needs (patrol time, staffing levels, education, patrol vehicles, OHV patrol vehicles, call volume, response time, regulatory signage, etc.) of the OHV areas and/or OHV designated routes within its jurisdiction. *PRC § 5090.53. Conditions for Grants or Encumbrance of Funds No funds may be granted or expended pursuant to Section 5090.50, unless all of the following conditions are met:(h) The recipient has included in its application a description of how it is meeting the operations and maintenance needs of any existing off-highway motor vehicle recreation facility under its jurisdiction.

Project Cost Estimate

- Staff #1, 3, & 4 – Applicant must clarify the number of staff making up this line item. It is unclear if one staff member is working more than half a year on OHV patrol solely.
- Staff #6 “Volunteer” – Hourly rate may not exceed that which is listed on independentsector.org at the start of the Grant cycle. Applicant must revise.

- Materials / Supplies #1 “Safety Supplies” – The Applicant must describe the method used to determine total cost of needed supplies. Description of PPE safety supplies must specify the quantity of items and the personnel that need the equipment. Mechanical winch is not a PPE item and should be a separate line item, identifying the vehicle it is intended for.
- Equipment Use Expenses #1-5 – Applicant has stated the pieces of Equipment are County owned. Applicant must revise to use the County rate and not a rental rate from an outside company. Additionally, ROV rate is excessive. Use rate may never exceed the Grantee’s actual cost. Applicant must revise quantity and rate to reflect a per day charge. Applicant is also reminded that a use fee may not be charged for Grant funded equipment. Inventory lists show that some equipment listed may have been Grant funded.
- Equipment Purchases #1 “Current Model Ford Raptor 4x4” – Relevant circumstances unique to the Applicant to justify this upgraded model are not described in the Project Description (LE Needs Assessment). Costs shall not exceed the minimum necessary requirements (CCR 4970.08(e)). Unit cost of \$84,000 far exceeds a standard 4x4 pickup. If the cost includes upgrades and outfitting these costs must be Itemized.
- Equipment Purchase #3 “Unmanned Aerial System Drone” – Drones are considered ineligible. Applicant must remove line item.
- Others #1 “SWAT personnel training” – it is unclear how members of the SWAT team are applicable to this OHV Law Enforcement Project. The Applicant must specify how this training is exclusive to this OHV law enforcement Project and how it contributes to sustaining long – term OHV Recreation.
- Indirect Costs #4, 6, 9 & 10 – These items were included in the G25 agreement. Applicant must clarify why they are being requested again.