

Project Name:

Gallatin County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Capabilities and Patrol Vehicles

Recipient:

Gallatin County Sheriff's Office

Address:

677 Laura Lousie Lane, Bozeman, MT 59718

Amount Requested:

\$906,660

Project Description:

Provides a funding level of \$906,660 for Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, located at 615 South 16th Street, Bozeman, MT 59715. The Gallatin County Sheriff's Department and Belgrade Police Department have formed an MOU to combine their purchasing power and coordinate complementary technology. This funding request will fund the purchase of all necessary equipment, software, warranties, consumables, and technical DNA support for the county sheriff's office and all other municipal law enforcement agencies. This comprehensive Rapid DNA program will be open to all law enforcement agencies within the county, and hopefully beyond. The state crime lab is facing an overwhelming number of DNA evidence items awaiting processing. To manage this caseload, they have created strict guidelines prioritizing certain crimes and limiting the number of DNA samples that can be processed. To help ease the burden on the state crime lab and enable them to focus on more complex and high-priority cases, the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office will be able to process DNA samples that can lead to immediate investigative leads. Additionally, the Belgrade Police Department will acquire fully outfitted patrol sport utility cruisers to enhance the safety of the citizens of Belgrade. Belgrade is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Western Montana and budgets are stretched thin across city government to support that growth.

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2601

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Gallatin County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Capabilities and Patrol Vehicles

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Gallatin County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Capabilities and Patrol Vehicles in Fiscal Year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, located at 677 Laura Louise Lane, Bozeman, MT 59718.

The Gallatin County Sheriff's Office and Belgrade Police Department have formed an MOU to combine their purchasing power and coordinate complementary technology. This request will fund the purchase of all necessary equipment, software, warranties, consumables, and technical DNA support for the county sheriff's office and all other municipal law enforcement agencies. This comprehensive Rapid DNA program will be open to all law enforcement agencies within the county, and hopefully beyond. The state crime lab is facing an overwhelming number of DNA evidence items awaiting processing. To manage this caseload, they have created strict guidelines prioritizing certain crimes and limiting the number of DNA samples that can be processed. To help ease the burden on the state crime lab and enable them to focus on more complex and high-priority cases, the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office will be able to process DNA samples that can lead to immediate investigative leads. Additionally, the Belgrade Police Department will acquire fully outfitted patrol sport utility cruisers to enhance the safety of the citizens of Belgrade. Belgrade is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Western Montana and budgets are stretched thin across city government to support that growth.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress