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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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HELEN E. HANKS
 COMMISSIONER

PAUL D. RAYMOND, JR.
 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

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August 8, 2024

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
 Fiscal Committee of the General Court
 State House
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
 and the Honorable Executive Council
 State House
 Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI the New Hampshire Department of Corrections (DOC), respectfully requests authorization to accept and expend \$574,937 of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) for the purpose of a unified digital evidence project and to purchase handheld x-ray technology. This is an allowable use of ARPA SFRF funds under Section 602(c)(1)(A) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts. Effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council approval through June 30, 2025. 100% Federal Funds

Funds are to be budgeted in FY 2025 in the following account *ARPA FRF-Safety through Technology* 02-46-46-460510-XXXX0000¹ as follows:

Account	Description	FY 2025 Current Authorized	Requested Action	FY 2025 Adjusted Authorized
030-500301	Equipment	-	182,195	182,195
037-500171	Technology-Hardware	-	100,000	100,000
038-500176	Technology-Software	-	240,000	240,000
040-501587	Indirect Costs	-	52,220	52,220
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	-	522	522
	Total Appropriations	-	574,937	574,937
000-400338	Federal Funds	-	574,937	574,937

¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH4603A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH4603Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

EXPLANATION

These funds will allow the Department to implement a unified digital evidence project and to purchase handheld x-ray technology. These funds will allow the department to purchase hardware and software subscription to expand the department's digital evidence capabilities with Fusus. Today, the department uses digital evidence technology with body worn cameras (BWC) and in-vehicle cameras (IVCs). Footage and data related to the BWCs are stored online in Axon's evidence.com digital evidence platform. This funding would allow the department to move all cameras' video/digital evidence, including fixed facility security cameras, BWCs, and IVCs, into a central repository in evidence.com. It will also provide upgrades to the fixed facility security camera systems to allow for secure remote access (i.e. from the state's emergency operations center) in times of crisis. In addition, this software can store TASER® data.

This tool will also add needed capabilities to the department's digital evidence system, allow investigators to access critical digital evidence conveniently and remotely, and help to phase out old and outdated analog video recording equipment. Another added benefit of transitioning all videos to evidence.com is the ability for the department to eliminate flash or thumb drives and writing DVDs. Evidence.com through Axon and Fusus has the capability to securely share digital evidence through downloadable links with a built-in audit tracker, thus increasing the department's capacity to share discovery materials timelier with the Attorney General's Office, the Conduct Review Committee, prosecutors, and the courts.

This funding will also allow the Department to purchase handheld x-ray backscatter imaging system that sees items that are otherwise invisible to the human eye. In turn, this system can help officers detect concealed contraband, weapons, narcotics, contraband cellphones and other threats. This imaging system is a safe, high-quality, low-energy imaging technology that is superior to others and is widely used by the United States Department of Homeland Security. This system will allow for a more effective deployment of correctional law enforcement officers, with one using the x-ray technology to swipe through searching cells for contraband and another law enforcement officer reviewing the "hot" items with the suspected contraband. The devices are capable of "seeing through" a multitude of materials: stainless steel toilets, peanut butter, concrete for false spaces, and more. The enhancement of x-ray technology in this function will create safer facilities and use correctional law enforcement officers time more effectively.

Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Class 030 – Equipment to purchase handheld x-ray imaging system.

Class 037 – Hardware for the digital evidence project.

Class 038 – Software for the digital evidence project.

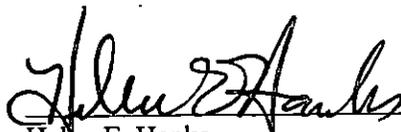
Class 040 – Indirect Costs to recover, per by RSA 21-1:75, a proportional share of the outside funding source to alleviate agency indirect costs.

Class 041 - Audit Fund Set Aside to comply with RSA 124:16 that requires all agencies that receive federal funds to set aside a percentage (0.1%) of the federal revenue amount received to pay for financial and compliance audits.

This is an allowable use of ARPA FRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(A) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts. In accepting ARPA SFRF funds, the Department agrees to

work collaboratively with the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery to ensure accurate and timely reporting to U.S. Department of Treasury on the use of the funds.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen E. Hanks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Helen E. Hanks

Commissioner