

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4007

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Florence County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Helicopter Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Florence County Sheriff's Office, located at 6719 Friendfield Road, Effingham, South Carolina 29541. The funding would be used to acquire a law enforcement helicopter.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds for numerous reasons. The current helicopter has aging components, obsolete avionics, limited payload capacity, and rising maintenance costs, all of which reduce reliability and operational effectiveness. As maintenance demands continue to rise and parts become more difficult to obtain, replacement is necessary to ensure continued mission readiness and public safety. Florence County spans approximately 804 square miles and serves a population of more than 137,000 residents. The Florence County Sheriff's Office operates one of the only aviation units in the region and is the sole provider of immediate aerial law enforcement support across the Pee Dee. The helicopter is a critical asset used to locate suspects, conduct search-and-rescue operations, respond to natural disasters, support traffic enforcement, and assist in drug interdiction efforts. It also provides regional support for multi-jurisdictional operations and emergency response. Funding for this project would be used to acquire and outfit a modern helicopter with updated aviation, communications, and safety technology. This investment will improve operational efficiency, enhance officer and public safety, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and enable faster and more effective responses to critical incidents. This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it ensures reliable emergency response capabilities, strengthens regional public safety infrastructure, and supports coordinated law enforcement efforts across multiple jurisdictions, ultimately protecting residents and improving outcomes in emergency situations.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program, 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, nor does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Russell Fry
Member of Congress