

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 Town of Nichols Public Safety Upgrades in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Town of Nichols, located at 514 Mullins Street, Nichols, South Carolina 29581. The funding would be used for purchasing much-needed equipment for the town's police department.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it represents a targeted, cost-effective investment in proven public safety technology and officer protection that will deliver immediate and regional benefits. License plate recognition (LPR) technology enables law enforcement to identify stolen vehicles, track known offenders, and detect criminal activity in real time, allowing officers to prevent crime rather than simply respond to it. Given Nichols' location along a major route to Myrtle Beach, these tools will help disrupt the flow of illegal drugs and criminal activity before they reach larger population centers, benefiting not only Nichols but also the broader region. The requested equipment is modest in scope but high in impact. With a relatively small federal investment, the department can significantly expand its capabilities without ongoing operational funding, ensuring long-term value for taxpayers. Additionally, the purchase of protective vests directly enhances officer safety, reducing risk and potential long-term costs associated with injuries. Following significant setbacks from past flood disasters, this project helps restore essential law enforcement capacity in a rural community that is still rebuilding. By leveraging modern technology and focusing on prevention, this investment improves public safety outcomes, strengthens regional coordination, and maximizes the return on taxpayer dollars.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 1701(b)(9) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. Section 10381(b)(9)).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, nor does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Russell Fry
Member of Congress