

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0403

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting funding for Technology Saving Arkansans, narcotics detection equipment and law enforcement protective gear for Arkansas's Twelfth Judicial District Drug Task Force in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Twelfth Judicial District of Arkansas. The District's address is 901 South B Street, Suite 209, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901, and the Drug Task Force executes jurisdictional duties in Sebastian and Crawford Counties.

The Twelfth Judicial District Drug Task Force is tasked with investigating and dismantling illegal narcotics violators in multiple counties in Arkansas, responsible for a total population of just under 200,000. This request supports the Task Force's prioritization of officer and civilian safety and enables the Task Force to combat the dangerous rise in narcotics trafficking and overdose deaths being experienced across the nation. Task Force members are experienced with and highly trained on counter-narcotic techniques and tactics, but they have witnessed firsthand the detrimental local effects of rising narcotics trafficking. In the first quarter of 2022 alone, the Task Force seized more fentanyl, twice as much cocaine, and six times as much heroin then they did in all of 2021. The dramatic increase is a stark reminder that our law enforcement personnel are at constant risk and must be properly equipped to protect themselves and those they are entrusted to serve. My community project funding request for this project is \$137,272.88.

The project will allow the Task Force to purchase several narcotic detection and analysis devices as well as life-saving emergency response medical equipment. It will also fund the purchase of enough personal protective gear to fully equip each Task Force vehicle team. The equipment will fill the Task Force's need to continue to provide crucial counter-narcotics capabilities for the people of the Twelfth Judicial District in a safe and sustainable manner. Additionally, the Task Force is supported by five local law enforcement departments and their leadership has made a strong commitment to the Task Force through joint investigations, combined manpower, and collaborative community policing that this project will continue to reinforce.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Steve Womack  
Member of Congress