



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: District Attorney
Department No.: 021
For Agenda Of: March 5, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): John T. Savrnoch, District Attorney (805)568-2308
Contact Info: Kristina Perkins, Chief Investigator (805) 568-2359
SUBJECT: Acceptance of Donation of Investigative Equipment from Merakai, LLC dba MOS Equipment

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: CEO Budget

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Accept a donation of \$11,009 in technical equipment from Merakai, LLC dba MOS Equipment for the Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigations;
- b) Approve Budget Revision Request No. 0009568 (Attachment B) to increase appropriations of \$11,000 in District Attorney General Fund for Services and Supplies (upgraded CIB equipment) funded by a donation of equipment from MOS Equipment (4/5 vote required); and
- c) Determine that the above recommended actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), because they consist of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

The District Attorney's Office recommends that the Board of Supervisors accept this donation pursuant to section 25355 of the Government Code, Section 18944 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, and Policy D4.1 of the County Policies and Procedures Manual.

MOS Equipment is a global leader in radio frequency shielding solutions. MOS Equipment specializes in the secure collection, analysis and preservation of digital evidence, a critical aspect in maintaining the integrity and chain of custody essential in criminal investigations. MOS Equipment is a local company that supports law enforcement and has donated the following equipment to the District Attorney's Office:

- Blocker Locker
- BlockBox Lab XL
- Disconnect Faraday Duffel Bag
- NeoLok Faraday Bag for Phones with Battery Kit
- Faraday Bag for Laptops
- Faraday Bag for Tablets
- Faraday Bag for Phones.

See Attachment A for the number of items donated.

Background:

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Cybercrime Unit plays a critical role in addressing digital evidence collected for all types of cases conducted by law enforcement agencies throughout the County. As technology advances, so do the methods necessary to protect the integrity of digital evidence the Office handles. For example, many modern cell phones now come equipped as standard with electronic SIM cards that make it impossible for the Cybercrime Unit to disconnect a device from the network without the tools provided in this donation. It is imperative that the District Attorney's staff has access to the most current equipment to effectively perform their jobs.

The items donated from MOS Equipment will significantly contribute to the District Attorney's ability to secure and analyze digital devices during investigations. Faraday bags are essential for isolating electronic devices from external signals, preventing remote tampering or data manipulation. The Mission Darkness BlockBox Lab XL and Blocker Locker, with their advanced shielding capabilities, provide a controlled environment for examining and storing electronic devices, ensuring the preservation of evidence without the risk of contamination. The donated battery packs allow the Cybercrime Unit to use the faraday bags for a longer period of time without the device losing power as it attempts to search for a connection. The faraday backpack is an effective solution for circumstances that require the Cybercrime Unit to collect multiple items or items that are too large to fit in the standard faraday bag.

It should also be noted that the District Attorney's Cybercrime Unit is dedicated to serving the community's needs and collaborates closely with all local law enforcement agencies. The Unit provides invaluable assistance to partner agencies in processing digital evidence and conducting forensic analyses for digital evidence that other agencies do not have the capability or time to process. Accepting this donation will significantly contribute to the District Attorney's ability to assist all other law enforcement agencies in Santa Barbara County and the broader law enforcement community.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost</u>	<u>Annualized On-going cost</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:	\$ 11,000		\$ 11,000
Total Funding	\$ 11,000		\$ 11,000

Fiscal Narrative:

The total financial impact of this donation is an estimated \$11,000 in value for the equipment being donated at no cost to the District Attorney’s Office. Budget Revision Request No. 0009526 (Attachment B) recognizes the value of this donation as revenue to the District Attorney’s Office, with an entry of similar value recorded as use of funds. No ongoing costs are anticipated with the acceptance of this donation.

Special Instructions:

Please return the following items to John DeAlba, DA Department Business Specialist:

1. One (1) Minute Order

Attachments:

Attachment A: MOS Equipment Donation Itemized List
 Attachment B: Budget Journal Entry #0009568

Authored by:

John DeAlba, Department Business Specialist; (805) 568-2434