

Oregon State Police Analyst: Ball

Request: Authorization to apply for a federal grant of up to \$250,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice to assist OSP's Forensic Services Division.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: On February 27, 2017 the Oregon State Police (OSP) submitted a letter seeking approval to apply for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program Grant made available through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. This is a competitive grant with an estimated total amount awarded of up to \$2,875,000 and individual awards of up to \$250,000. Grant applications are due no later than March 10, 2017.

The goal of the grant is to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner/coroner's office services. Among other things, funds may be used to eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic evidence and to train and employ forensic laboratory personnel and death investigators, as needed, to eliminate such a backlog.

OSP reports that grant proceeds will be used to assist the Forensic Services Division in reducing turnaround times for toxicology requests which are used in conjunction with drug expert recognition evaluations in court. It is estimated that this funding would allow for an additional 2,528 submissions to be processed and would greatly assist in efforts to reduce turnaround times of results to submitting agencies.

There is no match requirement associated with the grant, and the award period would be for 12-months beginning on January 1, 2018. Applicants will be notified if they were successful no later than September 30, 2017. If successful, OSP may need to return to an appropriate legislative meeting to seek additional federal funds expenditure limitation.