



# ASHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*Sheriff B. Phil Howell*  
SHERIFF B. PHIL HOWELL



January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
To: Commissioners  
From: Sheriff Howell  
Re: Agenda Request

Commissioners,

This letter requests placement on the agenda for the upcoming Commissioners Meeting on Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. It also requests the movement of Drug Asset Forfeiture monies to the Ashe County Sheriff's Office budget after appropriating several purchases over the county's \$5,000 threshold.

**Information about DAF:** As documented in the "Guide to Equitable Sharing," Drug Asset Forfeiture monies encompass the seizure, forfeiture, and disposition of assets representing the proceeds of or were used to facilitate crimes. Forfeiture proceeds are made pursuant to laws enforced or administered by Justice's Asset Forfeiture Program members. State, local, or tribal law enforcement agencies will not receive equitable sharing if the governing body or state, local, or tribal law, regulation, or policy requires or directs (1) specific expenditures of shared funds, (2) the transfer of federal equitable sharing funds to non-participating law enforcement agencies, or (3) expenditures for non-law enforcement purposes.

**Use of DAF Funds:** As documented in the "Guide to Equitable Sharing," anticipated equitably shared funds may not be budgeted but may be used for any of the Permissible Uses classified in the manual. A list of "Impermissible Uses" we also use to guide our decisions is provided.

A separate document containing quotes with itemized breakdowns will come to the Commissioners and County Manager on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. While these are approximate numbers, these will include:

- Speed Radar Trailer for use in and around the county. ~\$20,000
- 2 Drone devices that each contain thermal and additional tactical functions. ~\$20,000
- Covert narcotics trafficking software & equipment. ~\$3000
- 800mhz Viper radio by Motorola. ~\$9500
- Photography equipment for detectives & photo identification. ~\$13,000
- Laser engraving setup for serializing equipment. ~\$4,500

DAF Fund requests to use monies may only come from the Chief Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) and not from any other individual outside of that agency. In this situation, the Sheriff must approve the request and bring it to the Commissioners for a budget amendment to use these funds. No other entity or organization may choose or place these funds.

I appreciate your time in this matter, Sheriff Howell

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