

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, &
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, &
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Cartwright:

As you craft the fiscal year 2025 Commerce, Justice, Science, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$2,776,539 in community project funding for the Hardin County Radio Infrastructure Project. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Hardin County Sheriff Department, located at 1116 14th Ave, Eldora, Iowa 50627.

This project aims to furnish essential radio consoles and subscriber radio equipment for the Hardin County Sheriff's Department, fostering interoperability among law enforcement agencies not only within Hardin County but also across its neighboring counties. Despite the transition to the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System (ISICS) radio network by surrounding counties, Hardin County, with its population of 16,878, remains underserved and disconnected.

This has created a communication desert in the middle of the state; the absence of communication infrastructure poses a significant challenge for law enforcement operations, particularly when addressing emergencies or coordinating with neighboring jurisdictions. The geographical position of Hardin County, intersected by U.S. Highway 20, exacerbates this communication vacuum, hindering coordination with state and federal law enforcement agencies during critical situations. Additionally, When the Hardin County law enforcement leaves the boundaries of the county, the radio signal to communicate with their dispatch center is significantly decreased.

By investing in this project, the Hardin County Sheriff's Department can seamlessly integrate with ISICS, acquire radio consoles compatible with the network, and promptly deploy subscriber radio equipment. This investment promises to eliminate communication barriers, facilitating real-

time coordination among law enforcement agencies at the local, state, and federal levels. The deployment of radio consoles and subscriber radio equipment will not only harmonize communication within and across county lines but also equip law enforcement with the tools necessary to mitigate risks during high-stakes operations.

I strongly urge the Committee to include this community project funding request in the FY25 Commerce, Justice, Science, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Hinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress
Committee on Appropriations