



County of Milwaukee
Office of the Sheriff

David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

DATE: April 24, 2014

TO: Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard R. Schmidt, Inspector, Office of the Sheriff, Milwaukee County

SUBJECT: Request to extend and accept State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation grant funding for Freeway Service Team in the amount of \$250,000 for the Office of the Sheriff.

REQUEST

The Sheriff of Milwaukee County requests authority to extend this grant from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 and accept additional funding of \$250,000 from the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the Freeway Service Team.

BACKGROUND

Effective August 1, 2008 the Milwaukee County Sheriff entered into an agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to provide for the operating of and providing equipment for a Freeway Service Team (FST) on the Milwaukee County Freeway System until June 30, 2009 with initial funding of \$371,000. Four subsequent amendments have cumulatively extended the contract through June 30, 2013 and increased the total funding to \$1,253,332. The Freeway Service Team provides expedited clearance of disabled and crashed vehicles made possible by the presence of FST vehicles continuously patrolling designated segments of Interstate and U.S. highways during designated hours. The primary goal of the Freeway Service Team is quick clearance of traffic incidents thereby improving safety and minimizing traffic delays and congestion. The FST shall accomplish this goal by providing minor repairs for disabled vehicles; pushing disabled vehicles off the highway; providing fuel; clearing debris from disabled vehicles, small non-hazardous debris, and debris that is otherwise disruptive to traffic flow; directing traffic and assisting with traffic control; providing traffic and incident information to the WisDOT Statewide Traffic Operations Center (STOC); providing traffic and pavement condition reports; and providing informational literature to motorists. FST vehicles are typically equipped with push bumpers, traffic cones, electronic changeable message boards, radios, mobile phones, and other necessary equipment to provide quick clearance type services. Aid within the scope of operations of the FST is rendered free of charge to the motorist.

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The Milwaukee County Sheriff shall operate and maintain the FST on the Milwaukee County Freeway System between the hours of 6:00 AM and 10:00 PM Monday through Friday except state holidays.

Weekend, holiday, or extended shift hours, if requested by the Department, shall be in addition to the regularly scheduled hours.

The Freeway Service Team area consists of I-94 from the Milwaukee/Racine County line to the Milwaukee/Waukesha County line, I-894 in its entirety, I-43 from downtown Milwaukee to the Milwaukee/Ozaukee County line, I-794 between Carferry Drive and the Marquette Interchange, and US 45 from I-94 to the Milwaukee/Waukesha County line.

The Freeway Service Team shall continuously drive the service area locating, responding, and clearing minor traffic incidents. The FST shall assist motorists whose vehicles have suffered mechanical failure or have been involved in minor traffic crashes. The FST shall be responsible for clearing the traffic lanes of the highway of automobiles, motorcycles, small trucks and small non-hazardous debris material. Vehicles shall be removed from the traveled way, exclusive of shoulders, by pushing. Abandoned or unattended vehicles shall be removed in accordance with Wis. Stats. 342.40. The FST shall not provide towing or wrecker services.

This contract period is from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. This service shall be provided by the Milwaukee County Sheriff who shall be reimbursed for this service by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation at the rates of \$59.74 per standard labor hour and \$44.00 per overtime labor hour for each Deputy Sheriff assigned to the Freeway Service Team.

FISCAL NOTE

Grant funding awarded for the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 is \$250,000 increasing the total contract amount to \$1,503,332. All funding for this period will be used for wages and fringe benefits. No matching funds are required.



Richard R. Schmidt, Inspector
Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. Chair, Judiciary, Safety & General Services Committee
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff
Alexis Gassenhuber, Committee Clerk
Erica Hayden, Research Analyst

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