



Earnell R. Lucas  
Sheriff

County of Milwaukee  
**Office of the Sheriff**

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File No 20-674

**DATE:** August 28, 2020

**TO:** Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Denita Ball, Chief Deputy, Office of the Sheriff, Milwaukee County

**SUBJECT:** From the Chief Deputy, Office of the Sheriff, requesting authorization to execute a contract with the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation in the amount of \$240,000 for a Freeway Service Team to operate on the Milwaukee County freeway system for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is requesting authorization to execute a contract with the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office to provide a Freeway Service Team (FST) on I-41, I-43, I-94, I-894, I-794 and WIS 175 in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. This is a continuation of a similar FST service currently operated by the County under contract to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. 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 FST 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 Traffic Maintenance Center (TMC); 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.

The Milwaukee County Sheriff shall operate and maintain the FST on the Milwaukee County Freeway System between the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM Monday through Friday except state holidays except for Memorial Day and Labor Day. State holidays for this contract are New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve Day, Christmas, New Year's Eve Day. Weekend, holiday, or extended shift hours, if requested by the Department, shall be in addition to the regularly scheduled hours. The Project Manager, in coordination with the Administrator, reserves the right to modify or adjust hours of operation to accommodate special events, construction, major incidents, weather conditions, holidays, or other events. The Project Manager also reserves the right to add, subtract, or eliminate entirely, the hours of operation due to program needs. If the FST Operator is on call at the end of a shift, that Operator shall complete the stop and charge the necessary time to the FST contract.

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, I-41 from I-94 to the Milwaukee/ Waukesha County line and WIS 175 from I-94 to the intersection with W. Lisbon Avenue.

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, 2020 to June 30, 2021. This service shall be provided by the Milwaukee County Sheriff who shall be reimbursed for this service by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on a monthly basis for a maximum of \$195,000 for labor and \$45,000 for fuel and maintenance.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Chief Deputy of the Milwaukee County sheriff's office respectfully requests the authority to execute a contract with the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation to provide a Freeway Service Team (FST) in the amount of \$240,000.

### **FISCAL NOTE**

Contract funds to be awarded for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 are \$240,000. All funding for this period will be used for wages and fringe benefits. No matching funds are required.



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Denita Ball, Chief Deputy  
Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

Cc: Supervisor Staskunas, Chair, Judiciary, Safety & General Services Committee  
Supervisor Hass, Chair, Finance Committee  
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Judiciary, Safety & General Services  
Shanin R. Brown, Committee Coordinator, Finance & Audit  
Steve Cady, Director of Research & Policy