

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ALIEN DETENTION PROGRAM**

Congress has earmarked \$3 million in the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) appropriation for technology grants to state and local law enforcement agencies. The purpose of the grant is to allow law enforcement agencies to purchase video teleconferencing equipment necessary to assist state and local law enforcement in contacting Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to allow them to confirm the identification of illegal and criminal aliens in their custody.

Williamson County Sheriff's Department has applied for this grant and the grant was approved. The grant amount is \$58,245.00. There is no County match. The COPS grant funding is administered by INS.

*approved 2-20-01*

*John O. Daefler*

The grant will be used to purchase and install the equipment. The Sheriff's Department can use the equipment for any purpose deemed necessary when not in use by the INS. All first year costs including purchase, installation, training, 3 year warranty, phone lines, renovation and furniture are paid by the grant. After one year, the County must pay recurring costs of approximately \$3,000 per year.

With the equipment in place, INS agents will remotely interview suspected criminal aliens identified during the booking process. If the alien is determined to be removable, INS lodges a detainer and the alien is released to INS custody.

**Benefits to the County:**

1. Because this program will improve the efficiency of INS, fewer criminal and illegal aliens will be released back into the community.
  2. The equipment will belong to the Williamson County Sheriff's Department and can be used for other purposes such as hearings, training, etc.
  3. Cooperation between INS and the Williamson County Sheriff's Department will improve the identification of criminal and illegal aliens, resulting in increased reimbursement under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.
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