

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

**ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY**

DEPT: Sheriff's Department

BOARD AGENDA # \*B-13

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE June 8, 2010

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Transfer Existing Appropriations in the Sheriff's Department California Multi-Jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team (Cal-MMET) Grant Budget to Purchase Four Undercover Surveillance Vehicles

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to transfer existing appropriations in the Sheriff's Department California Multi-Jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team (Cal-MMET) budget as detailed in the attached budget journal.
2. Authorize the Sheriff to utilize these funds for the purchase of used vehicles for the Cal-MMET unit.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Sheriff's Department is requesting to increase appropriations for Fixed Assets by \$40,915. This increase will be achieved by transferring \$26,794 from appropriations for Services and Supplies and by transferring \$14,121 from appropriations for Other Charges in the Cal-MMET Grant Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. The appropriations were originally approved for trainings, cell phone services, auditing expenses and vehicle fuel and maintenance charges. Savings realized in these categories will be transferred to Fixed Assets, allowing the appropriate classification of grant funds to purchase four (continued on next page)

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2010-357

On motion of Supervisor DeMartini, Seconded by Supervisor Monteith and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman Grover

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied

3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended

4) \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

Approval to Transfer Existing Appropriations in the Sheriff's Department California  
Multi-Jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team (Cal-MMET) Grant Budget to Purchase  
Four Undercover Surveillance Vehicles

**FISCAL IMPACT (continued):**

undercover surveillance vehicles. The grant funds are only available for purchases incurred before June 30, 2010, and cannot be used to fund personnel costs in Budget Year 2010-2011. The Cal-MMET grant has been modified to reflect the purchase of these vehicles and will fully fund the purchase and ongoing operational costs of the vehicles. There is no cost to the County's General Fund.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Stanislaus County Cal-MMET team works together as a joint task force with two other anti-drug agencies, Stanislaus County Drug Enforcement Agency (SDEA) and Central Valley California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). The three agencies are located in the same building allowing them to efficiently work together by sharing information, resources, and equipment. The three agencies work as one team in order to combat the production and distribution of methamphetamines and other narcotics.

The duties of the joint task force members require the use of unmarked, undercover surveillance vehicles. On a daily basis, their duties can include undercover surveillance, wiretap investigations, responding to lab dump locations or methamphetamine labs, collecting evidence, serving search warrants, acquiring information from reliable confidential informants, and other covert operations throughout the county. These duties require undercover surveillance vehicles. Surveillance vehicles must be rotated in order to decrease the chance that the vehicles will be identified as law enforcement vehicles. Therefore multiple vehicles are necessary for the program.

The task force members service the entire County of Stanislaus. The county is 1,494 square miles in size and is located in California's Central Valley. The county is bordered on the east by Calaveras and Tuolumne counties and on the south by Merced County. Santa Clara County lies to the west and San Joaquin County to the north. There are nine incorporated cities in the county with a total population of 525,903.

Undercover vehicles need to blend in with other vehicles on the roads. Purchasing used, low mileage vehicles of multiple makes and models helps the undercover vehicles blend in. These used vehicles are purchased from rental car companies which have been driven less than 40,000 miles each. The purchase of four used vehicles will meet the needs of the task force members.

A task force member's personal vehicle cannot be used as a law enforcement vehicle due to safety and liability reasons. Using a personal vehicle when meeting with informants and suspects would put the task force member and his or her family at risk if the suspect were to recognize the vehicle at a later time. Undercover vehicles are outfitted with the equipment needed to perform the required duties including tinted windows and police radios. Personal vehicles would not have the required equipment. Liability also excludes the use of personal vehicles.

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Six Cal-MMET vehicles were removed from service in December 2008 and an additional two were removed from service in September 2009 due to high mileage and repair and/or safety issues. These eight vehicles were all between five and nine years old when they were removed from service. Four vehicles were purchased in July 2009 as replacement vehicles for those removed from service but still leaving the task force down four vehicles compared to December 2008. An additional four vehicles are being requested at this time in order to replace the remaining four vehicles that were removed from service. It is anticipated that a couple older vehicles may also be removed from service in the near future as they are between seven and ten years old. The four vehicles being requested now will be even more essential as the older vehicles are rotated out of service.

The Cal-MMET vehicles are shared between all three anti-drug agencies as they work as one team. Each agency has their own vehicles that can be shared with the other agencies. This provides a larger pool of vehicles which allows the vehicles to be rotated between agencies and agents in order to decrease the chance that the vehicles will be identified as law enforcement vehicles.

Cal-MMET funds six task force members in need of undercover vehicles including a Sheriff's Department Sergeant, two Sheriff's Department Detectives, one Modesto Police Department Officer, one District Attorney Criminal Investigator, as well as one Deputy Probation Officer funded by the Cal-MMET Recovery Act who will begin service with Cal-MMET in July 2010. SDEA funds thirteen positions in need of undercover vehicles including the Lieutenant in charge of the task force, two Sergeants, three Deputies, five Police Officers from four cities within the county, a Probation Officer, and a Deputy District Attorney.

Used vehicles rather than new vehicles have been determined as the best choice for the Stanislaus County Cal-MMET program. They can be acquired at a much lower purchase price and still remain in service for several years. The four used vehicles we recently purchased ranged in cost from \$13,000 to \$19,000 each including the installation of radio equipment and tinted windows. These vehicles are expected to remain in service for about three years before needing to rotate out of the program in order to maintain anonymity for undercover vehicles. This is an approximate cost of between \$4,000 and \$6,000 per year per car and possibly lower if the car remains in the program longer than three years which is often the case.

Based on recent purchases of new vehicles in the Sheriff's Department, the cost per year per car would be approximately \$7,500 to \$11,000 based on three years of service in the program. Basic sedans have recently been purchased for approximately \$23,000 and sports utility vehicles (SUV) were purchased for approximately \$34,000 both including the estimated cost to install radio equipment and tinted windows. This is almost twice the cost of purchasing used vehicles. The Cal-MMET program has had great success in the past with purchasing used vehicles which has saved grant money allowing the program to fund other needs of the task force.

Approval to Transfer Existing Appropriations in the Sheriff's Department California  
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Four Undercover Surveillance Vehicles

Purchasing vehicles rather than leasing them will save the program approximately \$2,500 in interest expense per vehicle based on the most current lease agreement entered into by the Sheriff's Department. In addition, leasing vehicles puts an obligation on the Cal-MMET program for future years. Since funding for the program can change each year, the Sheriff's Department does not want to obligate future years grant funding for vehicles that may have to be offset by reducing staffing levels. The current Cal-MMET grant for Stanislaus County can provide the funding to purchase the vehicles without affecting staffing levels.

The Stanislaus County Cal-MMET program is requesting to purchase four additional used vehicles in order to maintain the current level of investigation of methamphetamine related cases in Stanislaus County.

**POLICY ISSUES:**

Board approval is required for an addition or deletion of appropriation for fixed assets over \$10,000. The Board of Supervisors is asked to determine if this transfer is consistent with county policy and the Board's Priority of striving for A Safe Community and the Efficient Delivery of Public Services.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

There are no staffing impacts associated with this agenda item.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Dan Wirtz, Business Manager, (209) 525-7009.

# County of Stanislaus: Auditor-Controller Legal Budget Journal

Database  
Set of Books

FMSDBPRD.CO.STANISLAUS.CA.US.PROD  
County of Stanislaus

<b>Balance Type</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>Category</b>	* List - Text <b>Budget - Upload</b>
<b>Source</b>	* List - Text
<b>Currency</b>	* List - Text <b>USD</b>
<b>Budget Name</b>	List - Text <b>LEGAL BUDGET</b>
<b>Batch Name</b>	Text <b>SO JMS</b>
<b>Journal Name</b>	Text
<b>Journal Description</b>	Text <b>Transfer Cal-MMET appropriations to Fixed Assets</b>
<b>Journal Reference</b>	Text
<b>Organization</b>	List - Text <b>Stanislaus Budget Org</b>

Upl	Fund	Org	Acc't	GL Proj	Loc	Misc	Other	Debit		Credit		Period	Line Description
								incr appropriations decr est revenue	decr appropriations incr est revenue	Upper case MMM-YY	Text		
								(format > number > general)					
	1780	0028886	60400	0000000	000000	000000	000000				3,700	Jun-10	Decr Communications
	1780	0028886	63110	0000000	000000	000000	000000				4,500	Jun-10	Decr Outside Auditor
	1780	0028886	65780	0000000	000000	000000	000000				18,594	Jun-10	Decr Educ and Training
	1780	0028886	74712	0000000	000000	000000	000000				9,728	Jun-10	Decr Fleet Svc Repr & Maint
	1780	0028886	74713	0000000	000000	000000	000000				4,393	Jun-10	Decr Fleet Svc Fuel
	1780	0028886	84070	0000000	000000	000000	000000	40,915				Jun-10	Incr Cars

**Totals:** 40,915 40,915

**Explanation:** Transfer Cal-MMET appropriations to Fixed Assets from Services and Supplies and Other Charges to fund the purchase of four surveillance vehicles

<b>Requesting Department</b>	<b>CEO</b>	<b>Data Entry</b>	<b>Auditors Office Only</b>
Dan Wirtz		Keyed by _____	
Signature <u>6/2/2010</u>	Signature <u>U.2.10</u>	Date _____	Approved By <u>6/2/10</u>
Date	Date	Date	Date