



Kansas Sheriffs Association

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Sheriff Sandy Horton, Executive Director

March 2, 2011

House Appropriations Committee
State Capital
Topeka, Kansas
Attn: Chairman Mark Rhoades

Subject: Meth Lab Cleanup Funding

Dear Chairman Rhoades,

My name is Sheriff Sandy Horton and I am the Executive Director of the Kansas Sheriff's Association. I have also served as the Sheriff of Crawford County for the past 16 years. I am writing today to encourage the approval of State funding for meth lab cleanup in Kansas. As I'm sure you are aware the DEA abruptly, virtually without notice, advised law enforcement nationwide that they no longer had the funds to provide the cleanup service. According to the reports from the KBI, there are about 140-150 meth labs per year reported in Kansas. Information from the DEA indicates about 100 per year require haz-mat cleanup with the average cost per lab cleanup in Kansas of \$3640. Some cost a little less and the cost of larger labs is much higher.

Kansas Sheriffs have experienced the issues with meth labs for over a decade now and have seen the lab clean up funds shift from Federal to State back to Federal and now nothing. A prime example of what we face occurred on February 22nd, 2011 in Pittsburg, Kansas. Two Deputies went to a residence to serve an arrest warrant. What they found, besides the individual with the warrant, was a full working meth lab. Because chemicals had been mixed and were in liquid form it was necessary to call for a haz-mat cleanup crew to remove the liquids. This was a small lab. The cost for the removal service was \$4,000.00. Labs of larger size obviously will cost much, much more.

The costs reported by the DEA will be much higher if local governments have to hire haz-mat disposal companies without contract. The average cost reported by the DEA will be higher and timeliness of the response might also suffer. It is impractical for each city and county to individually negotiate separate contracts. The KBI data indicates about half the counties in Kansas will report a meth lab during a given year. A state contract will provide maximum efficiency and the lowest cost. Since the DEA/COPS Grant funding ended as of February 22, 2011, we respectfully request any FY2011 funding include the ability for retroactive reimbursement for lab cleanups after that date.

Kansas Sheriffs respectfully request funding is provided by the State of Kansas to perform lab cleanup services. Since the DEA/COPS Grant funding ended as of February 22, 2011, we respectfully request any FY2011 funding include the ability for retroactive reimbursement for lab cleanups after that date. No local agency has the resources to do this and without it a **HUGE** public safety and environmental issue will exist.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheriff Sandy Horton
Crawford County Sheriff
Executive Director, Kansas Sheriffs Association

Appropriations Committee

Date March 9, 2011

Attachment 5