

Analysis

Item 38: Department of Justice

Regional Automated Information Network Coordinator

Analyst: John Borden

Request: Allocate \$87,193 from the Emergency Fund to fund one-half full-time equivalent of a Regional Automated Information Network Coordinator position.

Analysis: The Department of Justice (DOJ) - Criminal Services Division (Criminal Intelligence Unit) is requesting backfilling an Other Funded position with an \$87,193 General Fund allocation from the Emergency Board.

The Criminal Justice Division provides investigation, prosecution, and analysis to a broad spectrum of public safety programs. The program operates the Criminal Intelligence Unit, which provides analytical services to Oregon law enforcement and also maintains a variety of criminal intelligence networks for Oregon law enforcement.

The Regional Automated Information Network (RAIN) is a non-profit organization of state and local law enforcement agencies, which voluntarily participate in a cooperative to purchase access to "Coplink." This application, that was developed and housed at DOJ, is designed as a clearinghouse to share criminal case data across jurisdictions. RAIN connects locally administered criminal justice records management systems to a single network accessible to participating RAIN members.

Since November of 2009, RAIN has contracted through an interagency agreement with DOJ to pay the cost of a DOJ-employed coordinator position (Information System Specialist 7). The position has managed the RAIN network, technical support, and training issues, as well as supported the administrative and financial function of the RAIN Board. In 2017, RAIN migrated to a new cloud-based software solution, as a cost-saving measure, thereby eliminating the need for DOJ servers. In January of 2018, the RAIN Board notified the Criminal Justice Division of the Board's intent to eliminate the DOJ RAIN Coordinator position beginning July 1, 2018. The position is currently filled with a long-term incumbent.

Rather than eliminate the position entirely, or relocate the RAIN Coordinator position to another participating agency, the RAIN Board agreed to continue funding one-half of the position. DOJ is proposing, as part of this Emergency Board request, to restore the position's other half of funding using General Fund. DOJ plans to use the state funded portion of the position to perform a variety of information technology related-tasks in the Criminal Intelligence Unit that will then free a Special Agent to focus on criminal investigations. Such half-time equivalent state work includes: desktop support; database application support, querying, report-writing, and analysis; vendor service call supervision; and investigative case support.

The Criminal Justice Division has been funding the position with General Fund savings, but such savings are insufficient to fund the position from October through the end of the biennium. DOJ has submitted a policy package for the 2019-21 biennium to permanently fund one-half of the position with General Fund.

In DOJ's current 2017-19 legislatively approved budget there has been identified one-time General Fund vacancy savings in the Civil Enforcement Division - Civil Rights Unit that could be transferred to the Criminal Justice Division to fund this request. This could be done in lieu of an Emergency Board allocation.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: Transfer \$87,193 of General Fund from the Civil Enforcement Division to the Criminal Justice Division to fund one-half full-time equivalent of a Regional Automated Information Network Coordinator position, as a one-time transfer.

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Request: Allocate \$87,193 from the State Emergency Board to the Department of Justice (DOJ) Criminal Justice Division to cover 25 percent of the 2017-19 biennial costs for the Regional Automated Information Network (RAIN) program coordinator position.

Recommendation: Deny the request.

Discussion: RAIN was established in 1975, pursuant to intergovernmental cooperation statutes under ORS Chapter 190. RAIN allows for information sharing among RAIN membership, which is comprised of Oregon law enforcement agencies inside and outside of state government.

DOJ has previously provided and housed the servers used to keep and maintain RAIN database information. Recently, the RAIN Executive Board and its members migrated their data to a more effective data sharing solution to reduce administrative costs. The program coordinator's position continues to spend 50 percent of their time on the original RAIN duties focused around monitoring the new network solution and providing analysis and customer service to RAIN's membership. This action was effective on July 1, 2018.

The position's other 50 percent of time is currently focused on technical duties within the DOJ Criminal Justice (CJ) Division. These duties include, but are not limited to, desktop support, support for database applications on both the client and servers sides of a number of technology based systems used statewide (eg: iBase, LEDS, COPLink, Badges, cameras, etc.), assisting investigators with an IT-specific roles, triage of network outages, and act as a knowledge resource for cyber issues for Department analysts. Previously, these services were being performed by a special agent for CJ and now the agent will be able to focus on more substantive tasks related to criminal investigation.

The Department should be able to absorb the requested costs using existing resources from their current biennial budget. The Department is requesting to address funding 50 percent of this position with General Fund in their 2019-21 Agency Request Budget.



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

August 21, 2018

The Honorable Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Tina Kotek, Co-Chair
State Emergency Board
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Emergency/Request

The Department of Justice has lost grant funding for one-half of a state position supporting law enforcement data sharing. We request an allocation of \$87,193 from the State Emergency Fund to backfill this loss of funding to continue the position.

Agency Action

The RAIN Program Coordinator position, an Information Systems Specialist 7 (ISS7), provides management services to the Regional Automated Information Network (RAIN), which is an ORS Chapter 190 intergovernmental association of state and local agencies tasked with facilitating law enforcement data-sharing between diverse criminal justice information systems in the state of Oregon and beyond. The program coordinator is the single point of contact between RAIN's member agencies, its executive board, and hardware and software solution providers. More specifically, the coordinator is responsible for all RAIN-related networking infrastructure, all program marketing and vendor contacts, and for providing all of the technical support and training for the approximately one thousand Oregon law enforcement personnel who utilize the network.

The RAIN network enhances public safety by connecting separate, locally administered criminal justice records management systems on a single network so that each member agency can share information and records with other member agencies. RAIN's user base draws from not only local police departments and sheriff's offices, but also state-wide agencies, including Oregon State Police, Department of Corrections, Oregon Department of Justice, and the Oregon Judicial Department. By augmenting information sharing among its member agencies, RAIN assists public safety professionals state-wide in "connecting the dots" and identifying patterns of criminal activity that would otherwise remain hidden.

RAIN is funded solely by its member agencies, each of whom pays an annual fee proportional to the number of police-certified sworn officers in its ranks. The original funding design of RAIN was, and continues to be, to share the burden of cost among participating members. The rationale for this funding design is that, as RAIN's membership grows, each agency's share of that burden would become proportionally less.

For the last several years, the RAIN board has explored cost saving measures such as the possibility of migrating to a different, more cost effective data sharing solution and reducing its own administrative budget footprint as much as possible. To that end, the board purchased new software that offers a cloud-based solution, permitting RAIN to divest itself of much of its server infrastructure (which was located at DOJ) and associated costs. Because the coordinator position no longer needs to maintain the servers at DOJ, the RAIN board has decided to further reduce its costs by reducing funding for the position at DOJ. The RAIN Board has given notice under the Interagency Agreement to no longer fund the position at DOJ. It has considered relocating the reduced position at a member agency that does not charge indirect expenses. However, the RAIN Board has agreed to fund the position at DOJ at a reduced amount if DOJ would make up the difference.

This DOJ request is intended to maintain the RAIN coordinator position at DOJ by adding state funding for the portion of the position's budget that RAIN will no longer pay. The position continues to perform RAIN duties during one-half of its time. The other half of the position's time is dedicated to a variety of technical duties in the Criminal Justice Division (CJD): periodic desktop support as needed for CJD users; support for selected CJD-specific database applications on both client and server sides (e.g., iBase, LEDS, Coplink, badges, cameras, etc.); supporting investigators in an IT-specific role (e.g., assisting with the setup and maintenance of surveillance-related Virtual Private Networks, routers, etc.); triage of network outages and other issues prior to escalation to IT HelpDesk; acting as a knowledge resource on cyber issues for Fusion Center analysts; lending database querying and report-writing and editing skills to analysts; acting as liaison to technology providers and vendors (e.g., telco, IBM), including contract and trouble-ticket management, and supervision during service calls in restricted areas. The position will also assist other analysts in CJD with investigative case support, including evidence and data management and analysis.

Many of the technology-related tasks associated with electronic surveillance investigations historically have been performed by a special agent assigned to CJD. Half-time funding for the RAIN coordinator position to perform those tasks will allow that special agent to focus on more substantive tasks related to criminal investigations, such as witness interviews and evidence collection.

Given RAIN's integrated, state-wide mission to enhance public safety, state funding for the coordinator position more fairly apportions the burden of cost in a way that recognizes the benefit to the state collectively – as distinct from the benefit to each member agency – and would also bring its funding model in line with the other states, such as California, which have long

Senator Courtney and Representative Kotek, Co-Chairs
State Emergency Board
August 21, 2018
Page 3

understood the importance of a guaranteed revenue stream to support state-wide data-sharing initiatives that directly impact public safety.

The requested amount, \$87,193, will cover one-half of the position's cost for the 12 months from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. To continue this one-half share of the position's funding through the 2019-21 biennium, DOJ is including a request for one-half of this position's funding in POP 251 in the 2019-21 Agency Request Budget.

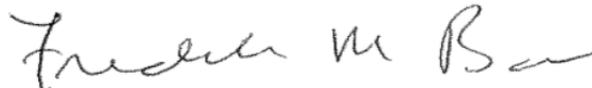
Action Requested

The Oregon Department of Justice respectfully requests the allocation of \$87,193 from the State Emergency Fund to backfill the pending loss of funding for the RAIN position in the Criminal Justice Division of the Department of Justice.

Legislation Affected

Allocation of \$87,193 from the State Emergency Fund to supplement the appropriation made by chapter 576, section 1(3), Oregon Laws 2017, for the Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Division, for the 2017-19 biennium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frederick M. Boss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F' and 'B'.

FREDERICK M. BOSS
Deputy Attorney General

Cc: Ellen F. Rosenblum
Michael Slauson
Art Ayre
Robert Schiewe