2021 GRANT APPLICATION SUMMARY

APPLICANT AGENCY: Michigan State Police		COMMISSION #: LE-04
PROJECT TITLE: Building Forensic & Investigative Capacity in Technology		
PROJECT PERIOD: 1/1/2021 – 12/31/2021		REQUESTED AMOUNT: $96,127.66
PROGRAM ANALYSIS: Joe Kempa	FISCAL ANALYSIS/RECOMMENDATION: Deb Thelen	

PROJECT SUMMARY

PRIORITY PROGRAM AREAS:
In its entirety, the training proposal does not meet the Commission's priority programs and advisory in-service training standards, but portions meet the legal update standard.

PRIORITY APPLICANTS:
The training is open law enforcement investigators from all parts of the state who are members of the Michigan Technology Investigations and Training Consortium.

PROPOSED TRAINING (summary of application):
MSP proposes training in digital forensics for law enforcement investigators. The participants will be taught to retrieve evidence and information from mobile devices and computers during their investigations of technology related crime, particularly internet identity theft and online crimes against children.

TRAINEES (# of trainees per session; # of sessions, total # trainees):

Course	Trainees per Session	Sessions	Total Trainees	Location	Instructor
IACIS-BCFE	2	1	2	Orlando, FL	TBD
IACIS Advanced	6	1	6	Orlando, FL	TBD
Techno Security	10	1	10	Myrtle Beach, SC	TBD
SANS FOR518	15	1	10	Diamondale, MI	TBD

INSTRUCTORS (summary of instructor credentials, # of instructors, agency affiliation):
See chart above

TRAINING SITE (list locations):
See chart above

PROGRAM ANALYSIS

The Problem Identification section is very well written and provides a solid rationale for the training. The applicant cites state and federal statistics, requests for service from the field, research findings, and other references to make a sold case for training in digit forensic investigations. The proposal also cites findings from other organizations that have made a commitment to fighting cybercrime including the Michigan Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (MI ICAC).

The training includes four major topics that help criminal investigators obtain digital evidence during the investigations of cybercrime, identity theft, and other internet crimes using modern software tools. The training addresses forensic data recovery techniques and competencies. Each of the four categories is listed in the grant application and major objectives and sub-objectives are included as training outcomes and competencies. In addition, the training goes beyond the technical ability to use software and includes legal matters such as search and seizure, rules of evidence, and courtroom testimony.

The number of hours per objective is not listed and the instructors are not identified, although the training will be conducted by nationally known organizations and software vendors.

The majority of the training will be hands-on, which allows the participants to work in lab setting as they become familiar with the data recovery techniques. Further, the training includes practice in mock trials, practical exercises, and participation in reality-based scenarios.

Participant evaluations will be conducted by the vendor to measure proficiency. The participants will be asked to rate the quality of instruction for each of the major training categories.

FISCAL SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

The Building Forensic and Investigative Capacity in Technology program has received grant funding from the Michigan Justice Training Fund a total of 13 times throughout the years. For calendar year 2021, grant funding is being requested in the amount of $85,808.33 for tuition and $10,319.33 for trainee travel costs for the following: 1) 2 trainees to attend the IACIS-Basic Computer Forensic Examiner (BCFE), 2) 6 trainees to attend the IACIS Advance: Mobile Device Forensics (MDF), 3) 10 trainees to attend the Techno Security & Digital Forensics Conference, and 4) 15 trainees to attend the SANS FOR518: Mac and iOS Forensic Analysis and Incident Response. The tuition costs for each of the training programs are shared between grant funds and match funds. The trainee travel costs are also shared between grant funds and match funds with the exception of the SANS FOR518: Mac iOS Forensic Analysis and Incident Response training, which is funded in full by the applicant's match share. The cost for room rental at the MSP Academy for this same training is also being funded in full by the applicant's match share, and this is the sole training of the four that is held in the state of Michigan. The other three training programs will be attended out of state.

In the cost justification section of the application, the applicant references that in-state student travel costs are within the State's standardized travel rates as published by the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB). The Michigan Justice Training Fund (MJTF) competitive grant program uses the travel rates published by DTMB only as a guide in establishing a specific Schedule of Travel Rates for the grant program. The grant program will never exceed the travel rates published by DTMB, but they may be more restrictive. Due to limited funding for grant awards, some of the travel rates established for the grant program are less than the rates published by DTMB. In addition, allowable travel expenditures are more restrictive than what is published by DTMB. The Schedule of Travel Rates for the calendar year 2021 MJTF competitive grants is published in the 2021 Grant Manual. This Schedule of Travel Rates is to be used by applicants in the development of the grant applications and these rates will remain in effect through the end date of each grant award. One of the travel restrictions imposed for the MJTF grant program is that lodging must be based on double occupancy. In the application, the cost justification and the proposed budget detail for each training did not take into account this restriction for the trainee travel. In addition, the lodging rate that was established for the grant program is the same for both in-state and out-of-state lodging, but the lodging rate used in application exceeds this allowable rate for three of the four trainings. Generally, the number of trainees lodging would be reduced in half and the lodging rate used would be reduced to the allowable rate in the proposed budget. However, trainee travel costs are being shared between grant funding and match funding, and the calculated reductions in relation to the lodging restriction and lodging rate are less than the total dollar amount that is being applied to the match share for each budget line item. Therefore, the match share for each trainee travel line item is large enough to cover the excess cost for single occupancy and the per night lodging amount that exceeds the allowable rate. Since this excess cost may be applied against the match share, there is no impact to the dollar amount of grant funding being requested in each line item and no adjustments are being recommended to the proposed budget as a result. However, the applicant should note that if this funding request is awarded, the costs that may be applied against their grant funds for lodging is limited to the lodging costs for one half the number of trainees that are indicated in the application and only at the allowable rate per night that is indicated in the established Schedule of Travel Rates as published in the 2021 Grant Manual. Had the match share dollar amount not been great enough to cover these excess costs, the reductions would have been as follows: 1) $1,859.00 for BCFE, 2) $2,145.00 for MDF, 3) $6,260.00 for 2021 Techno Security & Digital Forensics Conference, and 4) $2,975.00 for SANS FOR518: Mac and iOS Forensic Analysis and Incident Response. All other

costs are reasonable and within the guidelines. There are no administrative costs to be reviewed in this funding request. The 25% minimum match requirement has been met in the proposed budget with $72,957.34 in match share funds, which is 43.1% of the total training costs.

Funding History:

The following contains data of the past five grant awards for this program.

Grant #	Start Date	End Date	Requested	Awarded	Expended	% Expended
64379-9T11	01/01/2012	12/31/2012	$188,677.00	$81,590.00	$73,875.40	90%
64379-10T12	01/01/2013	12/31/2013	$171,767.00	$72,971.00	$71,739.00	98%
64379-11T13	01/01/2014	12/31/2014	$100,264.00	$83,111.00	$79,512.25	96%
64379-12T14	01/01/2015	09/30/2016	$135,223.34	$135,223.34	$133,624.74	99%
17LE-0168-01	01/01/2017	09/30/2018	$136,756.39	$136,756.39	$122,968.00	90%

Delinquencies:

No delinquencies are noted for this grant program. However, the quarterly grant reports for the most recent grant award were submitted after the deadline in five of the seven quarters.

Priorities:

The application indicates that the first funding priority is the Techno Security & Digital Forensics Conference in which $11,686.66 in grant funding is being requested. The second priority is the SANS FOR518: Mac and iOS Forensic Analysis and Incident Response training in which $70,200.00 in grant funding is being requested. The third priority is the IACIS-Mobile Device Forensics (MDF) training program in which $8,648.00 in grant funding is being requested. The lowest priority is the IACIS-Basic Computer Forensic Examiner (BCFE) training conference in which $5,593.00 in grant funding is being requested.

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends funding in the amount of **$96,127.66**, pending Commission approval and final determination of available funding.