
FY 2024 – 2025
Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking
Grant Program
Law Enforcement Technology Application

CITY OF PALM BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT
130 MALABAR ROAD, PALM BAY, FL 32907

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Amount Requested: \$50,000

OBJECTIVE:

The Palm Bay Police Department seeks funding to acquire a Crime-Lite AUTO Full Kit to enhance our capabilities in investigating human trafficking-related cases. This equipment will allow us to identify and preserve evidence critical to these cases more effectively, increasing the likelihood of successful prosecutions while supporting victim advocacy.

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION:

The Palm Bay Police Department serves a jurisdiction located near major human trafficking corridors, including Interstate 95, with proximity to international airports in Orlando and Miami. These geographic factors make our area vulnerable to trafficking activities. While human trafficking cases are not frequent in our jurisdiction, the cases we encounter are often exceptional in nature.

For example:

- A current active investigation into a missing prostitute involved indicators of trafficking activity.
- A 2013 case involved 24 Orlando children under the age of 18 who were rescued from a labor trafficking scheme in Palm Bay. The children were transported in unsafe conditions, crammed into an overcrowded van, and forced to sell items door-to-door for over 10 hours without adequate food or water. Investigators discovered that these children were subjected to coercion and unsafe practices, including being directed to work in unfamiliar neighborhoods, with reports of improper treatment by the traffickers. This case highlights the growing trend of labor trafficking in Florida, as well as the need for advanced investigative tools to identify and preserve evidence in such operations.
- Additionally, our Special Victims Unit has investigated cases of juvenile exploitation, and our Crime Suppression Unit plays a pivotal role in addressing organized crime, which is often intertwined with trafficking activities.

However, our department currently lacks specialized tools to fully investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases, limiting our ability to identify key evidence and protect victims effectively.

CURRENT RESOURCES

Currently, the Palm Bay Police Department does not have any specialized resources dedicated to human trafficking investigations. Investigators rely on standard-issue equipment, which limits our ability to identify, collect, and analyze key evidence. Budgetary constraints have prevented the acquisition of advanced technological tools needed for these critical investigations.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Acquiring the Crime-Lite AUTO Full Kit would address our current technological gaps. This equipment will allow investigators to detect trace evidence, biological fluids, and other critical forensic elements that are often pivotal in trafficking cases. Additionally, vendor-provided training will ensure that our personnel can effectively utilize this tool. The requested funding will alleviate our reliance on limited resources and provide advanced capabilities for trafficking-related cases.

PROJECT SCOPE

The grant funding will be used to purchase the Crime-Lite AUTO Full Kit, a specialized forensic tool designed for crime scene processing and evidence identification. This tool will enhance our investigative capacity, particularly in cases involving human trafficking.

Key project activities and milestones:

- 1. Procurement:** Purchase the Crime-Lite AUTO Full Kit upon receipt of funding.
- 2. Training:** Conduct third-party vendor training to ensure proficiency in using the equipment.
- 3. Deployment:** Integrate the tool into trafficking-related investigations and provide ongoing support to investigative teams.

PROJECT BUDGET:

Item Name	Narrative	Amount
Crime-Lite AUTO (Full Kit)	The Crime-Lite AUTO Full Kit is a cutting-edge forensic tool designed for advanced crime scene processing and evidence identification. It employs multi-wavelength light sources to detect biological fluids, trace evidence, and other critical forensic elements that are often invisible to the naked eye.	\$44,000.00
Equipment Training	The vendor-provided training ensures that our investigative personnel are proficient in using the Crime-Lite AUTO Full Kit. This training will include hands-on demonstrations and case-based applications, equipping our team to effectively integrate this advanced technology into trafficking-related investigations.	\$1,950.00
Shipping and Handling Cost		\$250.00
Total Estimated Cost (including tax)		\$50,000.00

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

With the Crime-Lite AUTO Full Kit, the Palm Bay Police Department aims to:

- Enhance our investigative capabilities in human trafficking cases by ensuring key evidence is identified and preserved.
- Equip our Crime Scene Investigations Unit with advanced tools to process trafficking-related crime scene and other related evidentiary items effectively.
- Improve case outcomes, supporting victim advocacy and the successful prosecution of offenders.

This advanced technological resource will enable our department to address trafficking-related cases more effectively, ensuring no evidence is overlooked and victims receive the justice they deserve.