



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LCSO Awarded Regional Law Enforcement Grant from Department of Justice

On April 20, 2020, the United States Department of Justice approved an application by the Leon County Sheriff's Office for a funding award of \$148,000 through the Gulf States Regional Law Enforcement Technology Assistance Initiative. This grant will allow LCSO to expand the technology in the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) by providing additional resources to LCSO and our area law enforcement partners, ultimately benefiting the community as a whole.

Leon County is home to several major roadways used by criminals to facilitate drug trafficking nationwide. These roadways are critical to the transporting of illegal drugs coming in from Mexico, Texas, Georgia, and South Florida, to the southeast region and further into the U.S. LCSO will utilize these funds to enhance, and improve upon, the technology employed to assist in detecting and combating the crime that results from this drug trafficking practice in our area.

LCSO's RTCC has been an integral part of the data analysis provided by this technology. As Leon County has seen a gradual decrease in its crime rate over the past three years, this initiative hopes to continue the reduction in our crime rate, specifically on violent crime, and increase information and intelligence sharing throughout the region on crimes associated with drug trafficking.

"LCSO remains committed to finding new and innovative ways to expand technology to assist law enforcement in cracking down on crime in the Big Bend area," said Sheriff Walt McNeil. ALLinLEON initiatives, such as Deputies Without Borders and the LCSO/TPD Joint Auto Crimes Task Force, will greatly benefit from the RTCC technology gained through this grant.

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