

Pinal County Sheriff's Office
971 N. Jason Lopez Circle
Florence, AZ 85132

Arizona Department of Public Safety,

I am writing on behalf of the Pinal County Sheriff's Office to express our earnest interest in submitting a grant proposal for the Anti-Human Trafficking Grant, as recently announced. The Pinal County Sheriff's Office is committed to the safety of and well-being of our community, and we believe that securing this grant would significantly enhance our efforts to combat human trafficking within our jurisdiction.

The Pinal County Sheriff's Office has a longstanding commitment to addressing human trafficking through proactive law enforcement strategies, community partnerships, and victim-centered approaches. We have identified specific areas within Pinal County where additional resources would make a substantial impact on prevention, intervention, and prosecution efforts related to human trafficking.

Our proposed project "Overwatch" aims to amplify the efficiency and safety of human trafficking investigations. Overwatch's broad applicability beyond investigation verticals will expand Pinal County Sheriff's Office capabilities to combat criminal activity and ensure amplified capacity throughout the entire County providing insights and support on hyperlocal and county-wide levels. We believe these initiatives align with the objectives outlined in the grant guidelines and will contribute to the overall goal of eradicating human trafficking in our community.

Enclosed with this letter is comprehensive grant proposal that provides detailed information on the project's goals, objectives, timeline, and budgetary requirements. We are excited about the opportunity to partner with your organization to make a significant impact on this critical issue.

Our team is prepared to work collaboratively with your committee to address any questions or provide additional information needed. We are confident that our proposed project will not only align with the grant's objectives but will also serve as a model for effective anti-human trafficking efforts.

Thank you for considering our application. We look forward to the possibility of discussing our proposal further and appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the fight against human trafficking.

Sincerely,
Adrian Leos
Lieutenant
Pinal County Sheriff's Office

Pinal County Sheriff's Office

Grant Application: AZ Department of Public Safety - Anti-Human Trafficking Grant Fund

For your consideration, the Pinal County Sheriff's Office is submitting this application in response to the program guidance for the AZDPS Anti-Human Trafficking Grant Fund. In particular, this funding request will assist with purchasing of new equipment, software or program licenses to aid in the investigation, prosecution, service provision or data collection and analysis of human trafficking. These funds will amplify our agency's ability to develop multi-disciplinary victim-centered approaches and enhance our ability to prevent, respond and impact human trafficking Pinal County. Specifically we will dramatically increase our analytical services, and develop or deploy additional tools to support prevention and response to human trafficking and data and research capabilities.

Background

The Pinal county Sheriff's Office is applying for the Anti-trafficking program to express our earnest request for funding to implement the Overwatch program, a comprehensive initiative designed to combat human trafficking in our jurisdiction. With your support, we aim to combat human trafficking within our jurisdiction. With your support we aim to enhance our capabilities, leverage cutting-edge technology, and engage the community in the relentless pursuit of justice.

Pinal County Sheriff's Office has three investigative units to investigate Human Trafficking . Pinal County is grappling with the pervasive issue of human trafficking necessitating a proactive and multifaceted approach. As a Region intersected by major highways Interstate 10 and Interstate 8 and characterized by diverse communities, Pinal County becomes both a thoroughfare and a destination for illicit activities. The issues faced by the Pinal County Sheriff's Office in addressing human trafficking are multifaceted and demand a comprehensive response.

One of the primary challenges is the transient nature of trafficking operations. The highway networks that crisscross the county facilitate the movement of traffickers and victims, making it difficult for law enforcement to track and intercept illegal activities effectively. The transient nature of trafficking not only hampers investigations but also necessitates close collaboration with neighboring jurisdiction and federal agencies to create a coordinated response.

Moreover, the diverse demographics within the County pose additional hurdles. Human trafficking takes various forms, impacting both local residents and vulnerable populations passing through the area. The Sheriff's Office must tailor its strategies to address the distinct needs of different communities, including rural areas where resources may be limited. This requires a delicate balance between proactive prevention efforts and responsive enforcement actions.

Limited resources also strain the Sheriff's Office ability to combat human trafficking comprehensively. Allocating personnel, funding, and technology to address this pervasive issue competes with other Law Enforcement priorities.

In addition to these challenges, the clandestine nature of human trafficking demands heightened investigative skills. The Sheriff's Office must adeptly navigate a landscape where traffickers exploit vulnerabilities, coercion, and manipulation. Specialized training and resources are vital for Law Enforcement to identify, rescue and support victims while holding perpetrators accountable.

Between the years of 2022-2024 the Pinal County Sheriff's Office three tactical units responsible for human trafficking reported over the course of their operations which target human trafficking , engaged in 62 vehicle pursuits on the major highways, made contact with 762 potential victims of human trafficking who were turned over to our federal partners for further investigation. These units also made 162 arrests with individuals identified in participating in human trafficking.

The confluence of a relentless border crisis and an exponential surge in the usage of technological advancements by criminal organizations has thrust Arizona law enforcement agencies – and in particular the Pinal County Sheriff's Office - into an unprecedented battle against human trafficking.

Technology's rapid evolution has provided criminal networks with new tools, enabling them to continuously adapt their operational and recruitment tactics. Social media, encrypted messaging platforms, and cryptocurrencies add significant complexity to law enforcement's efforts. This digital evolution requires a shift in strategy and resources to address the surge in trafficking effectively.

Exigent circumstances due to the rising criminal sophistication and volume underscore the urgency for immediate action. The paramount concern is ensuring the agency has the capacity to identify, investigate and respond to this growing threat. A second concern of equal importance is officer safety while contending with these persistent and evolving threats. In this context, the Pinal County Sheriff's Office requires solutions that integrate the most valuable

aspects of cutting-edge technology. By implementing Overwatch, Pinal County will have access to tangible, actionable results, enabling the Sheriff's Office to outpace criminal elements effectively. With Overwatch we will be in a position to amplify investigative and interdiction capabilities efficiently, leveraging existing resources and methodologies to maximum effect.

Scope of Work

The Arizona DPS Anti-Trafficking Program funds will allow Pinal County to amplify our efforts to identify and respond to human trafficking activity in our county. We are requesting funding to implement Overwatch.

Overwatch will markedly amplify the efficiency and safety of human trafficking investigations. Overwatch's broad applicability beyond investigation verticals will expand Pinal County Sheriff's Office capabilities to combat criminal activity and ensure amplified capacity throughout the entire county providing insights and support on hyperlocal and county-wide levels.

Overwatch is engineered for rapid deployment. Designed as an autonomous solution, the program eliminates the need for law enforcement to operate or integrate complex software and will provide Pinal County Sheriff's Office with critical, comprehensive, and prioritized information to enhance investigations within the first week of use.

The Overwatch Program will amplify our agency to:

- Deploy a reconnaissance engine that identifies, aggregates, filters, evaluates, and ranks on-line threats across a large jurisdiction.
- Scale an engagement capability that develops digital entities to disrupt the flow of bad activity and provide unparalleled investigation support.
- Scales and supports personnel safety of officers/agents during in-field operations.
- Identify harmful activity across the social web.
- Deploy a force multiplier to deliver value without increasing operational or technical overhead in our agency.

The core scope of work will include deploying the following tools:

- ***RADAR: (Realtime active data aggregation reporter)***
RADAR disrupts human trafficking organizations via innovative intelligence reporting powered by our artificial intelligence (AI) & machine learning technology. delivers a powerful asset to convert vast online data into actionable intelligence at a scale otherwise unachievable. Automated machine learning and AI systems meticulously analyze public and open-source digital channels to unearth hidden leads, enhancing investigative

effectiveness. Overwatch excels in navigating the intricate networks of Human Trafficking Organizations (HTO) across the digital ecosystem with state-of-the-art capabilities to generate comprehensive intelligence reports, focusing on identifying leads within areas of high criminal activity. Intelligence gathered and the reports produced through this technology will maximize our agency's impact by identifying hot spots for investigations, gathering information for investigations and expanding our capacity to identify criminal activity. Overwatch will identify & prioritize leads through a proprietary threat-scoring algorithm that tracks the level of sophistication of the trafficking organizations, the potential for child trafficking, usage of social media & digital payment platforms, coded words and symbols, and physical locations of operations. Each lead generated will include extensive details — from operational locations, social media accounts, digital payments, and other digital footprints — providing agencies with a full spectrum understanding essential for ongoing and future operations. RADAR will boost our ability to conduct effective investigations and achieve forecasted performance goals

- ***ITFM System (Investigative Task Force multiplier)*** will enable our agency to deploy AI-driven virtual agents for deep intelligence collection and suspect engagement. Working in concert with ***RADAR***, it transforms the intelligence aggregated for leads into direct evidence during the investigation. This solution allows us to shape engagements via AI-powered digital personas, with the adaptability to use gathered information as court-admissible evidence. Its scalability is a crucial feature, enhancing investigative reach without the need for more personnel, thereby acting as another essential force multiplier for Pinal County allowing us to respond to the growing threat and need.
- ***VIPS (Virtual Investigator Protection System)***
Generates content (images, audio, video) that undercover resources can utilize during in-field operations. This tool is a critical innovation in safeguarding undercover officers in the digital era. This system will generate content (e.g., images, audio) that can be utilized during in-field operations.

Overwatch has established itself as a novel, singular solution within the public safety technology sector, providing a comprehensive suite of tools currently unmatched in the market. Its capability to function as a force multiplier enables agencies to extend their operational efficacy and manage public safety challenges more effectively. Overwatch surpasses the limitations of typical social listening intelligence platforms available today. The platform will deliver multi-dimensional results comparable to those generated by entire teams interfacing with multiple software's and vendors without your staff needing to operate or integrate complex software.

Identified Personnel

The Pinal County Sheriff's Office has three units responsible for the investigation of Human Trafficking. Anti-smuggling unit which has the responsibility of conducting long term investigations into human trafficking, they also conduct interdiction of human trafficking on our identified smuggling routes in our county. The Pinal County Narcotics Unit works a variety of cases to include assisting with Human trafficking cases. The Pinal County ICAC unit investigates cyber internet crimes to include human trafficking. The funding asked for the overwatch program isn't for the salaries of these units only to fund the overwatch program. The Following personnel are assigned to these units.

Anti-smuggling

Sergeant Tabor - \$83,593.12

Detective Wilson-\$75,774.40

Detective Terry-\$75,774.40

Detective Mora-\$72,167.68

Detective Canzona-\$62,192

Pinal County Narcotics task Force

Sergeant Messing-\$94,577.60

Detective Sanchez-\$75,774.40

Detective Acevedo-\$75,774.40

Detective Rushing-\$75,774.40

ICAC

Sergeant Defina-\$81,602.56

Detective Stoltz-\$70,366.40

Detective Pickett-\$68,640.00

Expected Outcomes

The adoption of Overwatch by the Pinal County Sheriff's Office is anticipated to yield significant positive outcomes, addressing the urgent challenges posed by the intersection of a burgeoning border crisis and the increasing use of technology by criminal organizations in human trafficking. The following are the expected outcomes and benefits:

Strengthening Law Enforcement Bonds:

The overwatch program represents a pivotal initiative in fortifying law enforcement bonds on local, state and federal levels, particularly in collaborative fight against human trafficking. By fostering strong partnerships with our local agencies, we aim to establish a unified front against human trafficking. The program encourages seamless information, sharing joint task force operations, and coordinated efforts to identify and dismantle human trafficking networks. Furthermore, the Overwatch Program emphasizes proactive engagement with the state and federal authorities, leveraging their specialized resources and expertise to amplify our impact. Through this multifaceted approach, the program not only strengthens inter-agency relationships but also enhances our collective ability to combat human trafficking effectively, fostering a safer environment for our communities.

Enhanced Investigative Efficiency: Overwatch, specifically the RADAR tool, will empower the Sheriff's Office to identify, aggregate, filter, and prioritize online threats swiftly. The AI and machine learning technologies will convert vast amounts of online data into actionable intelligence, significantly amplifying the efficiency of human trafficking investigations. The proprietary threat-scoring algorithm will enable the prioritization of leads based on the sophistication of trafficking organizations, potential for child trafficking, and other relevant factors.

Force Multiplier for Operations: The combination of RADAR, ITFM System, and VIPS will act as force multipliers for the Pinal County Sheriff's Office. The ITFM System, with AI-driven virtual agents, will extend intelligence collection and suspect engagement capabilities without the need for additional personnel. VIPS will provide critical support by generating content (images, audio, video) for undercover resources during in-field operations, ensuring officer safety in the digital era.

Rapid Deployment and Autonomous Operation: Overwatch's design as an autonomous solution ensures rapid deployment without the need for law enforcement to operate or integrate complex software. The program is engineered for swift implementation, providing critical, comprehensive, and prioritized information within the first week of use. This rapid deployment capability is crucial for immediate action in response to exigent circumstances.

Comprehensive Intelligence Reports: The RADAR tool's ability to navigate intricate networks of Human Trafficking Organizations (HTO) across the digital ecosystem will result in the generation of comprehensive intelligence reports. These reports will include extensive details on operational locations, social media accounts, digital payments, and other digital footprints, providing a full spectrum understanding essential for ongoing and future operations.

Court-Admissible Evidence: The ITFM System's capacity to transform aggregated intelligence into court-admissible evidence through AI-driven virtual agents is a significant advancement. This feature ensures that the information gathered can be effectively utilized during investigations and legal proceedings, enhancing the Sheriff's Office capabilities in building strong cases against human trafficking organizations.

Amplified Capacity throughout the County: Overwatch's broad applicability beyond human trafficking investigations will expand the capabilities of the Pinal County Sheriff's Office to combat criminal activity on hyperlocal and county-wide levels. The platform's versatility will provide insights and support across various law enforcement verticals, contributing to overall public safety.

In summary, the implementation of Overwatch in Pinal County is expected to transform the agency's approach to identifying and responding to human trafficking activity. It will also allow us to prevent victimization and intervene to help identify and support victims. Implementing Overwatch will provide the Pinal County Sheriff's Office with cutting-edge tools to stay ahead of criminal elements, ensure officer safety, and significantly enhance the agency's overall operational effectiveness. The program's comprehensive suite of tools and force multiplier capabilities positions it as a pivotal asset in addressing the challenges posed by the evolving landscape of criminal activities in the digital age.

Budget

One-time subscription payment of \$360,000 for 12-months of access to the technology and/or services. The Pinal County Sheriff's Office is collaboratively working with Pinal County Leadership to secure sustainable funding for the Overwatch program, leveraging its demonstrated success and anticipating continued positive outcomes in the coming years. By showcasing the program's effectiveness in enhancing public safety and combating criminal activities, we aim to secure ongoing support from county stakeholders, ensuring the longevity and continued impact of this vital initiative.