

Office of the Governor  
Ronnie Musgrove, Governor



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# Mississippi's Crime Tech Plan

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A response to the National Governors'  
Association Request for Proposals for  
Integrating Criminal Justice Information  
Technology

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# **Criminal Justice Technology in Mississippi**

## **The Need for Intergovernmental Cooperation**

Governor Musgrove recognizes the importance coordinating information to protect and provide for every Mississippian. On August 8th, Governor Musgrove named an “E-Government Commission” to provide a streamlined, service-oriented environment for all consumers. However, to better address the needs of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, the Governor plans to assemble a team representative of various state, federal and local agencies.

By bringing together law enforcement and criminal justice agencies and their information databases, protecting our law-abiding citizens will become more efficient. In the last ten years, Mississippi has seen more a 24% increase in property crimes and more than a 21% increase in violent crimes. With technology and the communication, we believe that Mississippi’s criminal justice system will be able to turn back this rising trend.

## **Status of System Integration in Mississippi**

Governor Musgrove envisions a criminal justice system that protects our citizens and provides law enforcement with the information and tools that they need to protect our communities. Mississippi’s local jurisdictions, with leadership from state agencies, have been working toward a unified criminal justice system.

Currently, local government law enforcement entities have access to national crime information systems through the Mississippi Department of Public Safety. The Commissioner of Public Safety, in conjunction with the Attorney General’s Office and the Administrative Office of the Courts, is seeking to bring local court records on-line for access by law enforcement officials.

The Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services is responsible for providing service to state and local agencies for the purchase and coordination of information systems. ITS with the Department of Corrections is currently in the process of upgrading the department’s client tracking system to permit greater coordination with local courts and law enforcement.

## **Team Composition**

To best coordinate integration of multiple criminal justice systems operating within Mississippi, the Governor’s Crime Tech Team will include representatives from the following agencies and organizations:

- Michael Boyd, Policy and Planning Director, Office of the Governor, will serve as the Governor’s lead policy person for criminal justice information technology integration;

- Law Enforcement (e.g., Department Public Safety, Mississippi Highway Patrol, Bureau of Narcotics, Sheriff's Association, Chiefs of Police, Constables, FBI, U.S. Marshal);
- Prosecution (e.g., District Attorneys, Attorney General's Office);
- Judiciary (e.g., Administrative Office of the Courts, Circuit Court, Chancery Courts, Justice Court, County Courts);
- Confinement (e.g., Department of Corrections, Federal Bureau of Prisons, private correctional facilities);
- Information Systems (e.g., Department of Information Technology Services);
- Interested parties (e.g., academics, metropolitan crime commissions, advocacy groups).

## Discussions and Interactions

The team will engage strategic planning sessions that will clearly define obstacles to integration (i.e., funding, public support, internal support, technology support). Combined with these strategic sessions, team members and other criminal justice officials will participate in community discussions to address policy concerns.

### **Survey Instrument**

A survey instrument will be designed to compile a information about the criminal justice information systems, including operating platforms, system designs, and communications requirements. This survey will provide information relating to the opportunities and obstacles for building an efficient criminal justice technology network for implementation.

### **Community Input**

The Governor's Crime Tech team will have 3 to 5 meetings throughout Mississippi to obtain community and consumer input about the elements of a useful information technology systems for criminal justice coordination. From these discussions,

## Plan Development

By March 1, 2001, the Governor's Crime Tech Team will compile a report of its activities and plan for implementation of a unified criminal justice information technology system. This plan will address the shared vision for integrated criminal justice information technology systems as developed through local, state, and federal input. Additionally, the plan will estimate the costs for technology investment in integrating these systems.

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# Attachment A

## Proposed Budget

Budget Object	State Match	Grant Funding
Salaries & Benefits	\$5,000	\$5,000
Printing	\$750	\$750
Communication	\$2,000	\$2,000
Travel/Meeting Expenses	\$2,750	\$17,250
<b>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES</b> (Reimbursable expenses cannot exceed \$25,000)	\$10,500	\$25,000

As the members of the Governor's Crime Tech team will need to travel to attend a criminal justice IT integration workshop, conduct site visits to metropolitan and rural areas, and conduct focus group meetings, travel expenses consume the largest portion of the planning budget.

Although the Request for Applications does not require a state match, the state will provide funds as appropriate for the successful completion of the planning grant. The Governor's Office reserves the right to adjust the proposed budget as needed to best fulfill the requirements of this grant.

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# **Attachment B**

## **Proposed Crime Tech Team Members**

Mr. Michael Boyd, Policy and Planning Director  
Office of Governor Ronnie Musgrove

Mr. David Huggins, Commissioner  
Department of Public Safety

Mr. Don Strange, Director  
Bureau of Narcotics

Mr. Robert Johnson, Commissioner  
Department of Corrections

Mr. Steve Kirchmeyer, Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Courts

Mr. David Litchliter, Executive Director  
Information Technology Services

Mr. Frank Spencer, Assistant Attorney General  
Attorney General Office

Mr. Frank Davis, President  
Mississippi Sheriff's Association

Mr. Willie Huff, President  
Mississippi Chiefs of Police Association

Mr. Steve Simpson, President  
District Attorneys Association