

**North Carolina Association of County Commissioners
2009 Local Government Federal Credit Union Employee Productivity Awards Application**

County: Stokes Employee: Bryan Steen Email: bsteen@co.stokes.nc.us

County Department: Administration Employee Title: County Manager

County Phone: 336-593-2407 County Mailing Address: PO Box 20, Danbury, NC 27016

Is this project being submitted on behalf of two or more employees? NO YES

If yes, please provide below a listing of all project employees in Number 6. Employee & title as listed above should be for lead team member.
Fair Labors Standards Act Designation: In order for your project to be eligible, you MUST indicate one of the following. If you do not know, please contact your personnel director.

EXEMPT: NON-EXEMPT: BOTH (if applicable to a team):

1.	Productivity Improvement Title: Probable Cause Video Conferencing
2.	Implementation Date (must be between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008): August 2008
3.	Please describe the productivity improvement. (Please limit response to these 2 pages.)
<p>Video Conferencing equipment and internet service connections were utilized to establish a system that enables law enforcement officers to be in one location and visually / audibly interact with a magistrate at another location in a manner sufficient to meet federal and state constitutional requirements to complete a probable cause hearing, approximately 17 miles from one another. The process expedited completion of the arrest, reduced opportunities for a defendant to assault the arresting officer or escape, reduced mileage on patrol cars, saved gasoline and accelerated the officer's availability to receive new calls for service or complete other job functions. The process also expedited release of the defendant if they met requirements ordered by the magistrate.</p>	

4. Please describe why this project was initiated or what problem it addressed:

Stokes County is a large county with a mountain range in the middle. The county seat and jail are in Danbury on the east/northeast side of the mountain. The county has two additional population centers/towns that have their own police force near our boarder with Forsyth County. Years ago, a magistrate's office was established in the City of King in the southeast corner of the county that is approximately thirty minutes drive from Danbury. The magistrate office location rotates between Danbury and King. Problem to resolve, connect law enforcement officers with a magistrate to complete the required hearing without the officer driving back and forth from the jail to the King Magistrate's Office and back to jail to complete the arrest process. The original process took about three hours and approximately thirty-five miles of driving. This process impacted Sheriff's Officers, Walnut Cove PD and State Highway Patrol when the magistrate was in King. The process impacted King PD when they had a simple matter and had to drive to Danbury to see the magistrate. The original process resulted in extra mileage on vehicles, tied up officers and delayed/prevented them from taking new calls, wasted expensive fuel and exposed officers to unnecessary danger due to repeatedly putting on / taking off handcuffs if the defendant decided to resist or attempted to escape from the officer during the process.

5. Please quantify the improvement's results in terms of cost savings, cost avoidance and/or a higher level of services provided.

(Please indicate what resources were used to achieve your results, and what was done with the time savings, if any accrued).

To date, the Probable Cause Video Conferencing process has prevented 476 trips that would have been needed using the old process. The avoided trips are estimated to have saved the Sheriff's Dept. \$9,282.00 in employee time cost (476 x 90 minutes @ \$13.00 per hour) and \$2,777.50 in fuel cost (476 x 35 miles) would use 1,111 gal.s of gas [15 miles per gal.] @ \$2.50 per gallon) . We do not have figures for the State Highway Patrol, Walnut Cove PD or King PD. Nor can we value the benefit of officers being able to take new calls due to their expedited availability, or the number of confrontations avoided due to the reduced number of occasions for a defendant to resist the officer when they put on or take off handcuffs.

6. Please provide any other descriptive information you would like to be considered by the review committee.

Sheriff Mike Joyce provided funding from fines and forfeiture for the required equipment to make the process possible.

Capt Mike Marshall, Stokes County Sheriff's Office, Dianna Fulp, Info Tech. Director and Bryan Steen, County Manager were staff members on the Project.

County Manager's Name: Kenneth B. "Bryan" Steen

Supervisor's Name:

Return by June 19, 2009 via email to ncacc@ncacc.org.