



MEMORANDUM

To: Galveston County Commissioners' Court
From: Betsy Thomas, Grants Administration Manager
Court Date: July 7, 2025
RE: Sheriff's Department – Dive Team Division
Mary Moody Northen Endowment Grant Application

BACKGROUND

The Mary Moody Northen Endowment is a private foundation which awards grants through two specific programs directly benefiting people and organizations located on and/or serving Galveston Island:

- The Galveston Community Impact Grants honor Mrs. Northen's affection for Galveston Island and reflect the Board of Directors' own commitment to her community.
- The Mary Moody Northen Internship grants provide Galveston County high school students and/or graduates with meaningful opportunities to learn about community service and help fund post-secondary education.

SUMMARY

The Galveston County Sheriff's Department Dive Team Division is seeking updated dive equipment from the MMNE grant program.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Grant Funding	\$17,971.40
County Funding	\$0.00
Project Total	\$17,971.40

RECOMMENDATIONS

Professional Services requests the Court to authorize the County Judge to sign the grant request letter for submission to the Mary Moody Northen Endowment for the Sheriff's Department Mounted Patrol Division equipment and supplies.

ATTACHEMENTS FOR WET SIGNATURE

- ☐ MMNE Grant Request Letter



Galveston County Sheriff's Office

Jimmy Fullen, Sheriff

Grant Proposal

To:

Betty Massey, Executive Director
Mary Moody Northen Endowment

From:

Galveston County
Sheriff's Office Dive Team Division

Subject:

Community Impact Grant Request for Specialized Dive Equipment

Introduction and Purpose

The Galveston County Sheriff's Office Dive Team respectfully submits this proposal to the Mary Moody Northen Endowment, requesting funding to purchase specialized life-saving equipment—specifically, full-face masks with communications and hazardous-material (hazmat) dry suits.

The Dive Team is tasked with conducting underwater operations to recover evidence critical to criminal investigations, locate and recover victims, and respond to any request for service involving submerged operations. We serve not only the Sheriff's Office but also support every law enforcement agency in Galveston County, numerous state and federal partners including the Texas Rangers, FBI, DEA, DOD, and have even been deployed out of state.

To maintain our operational readiness and improve diver safety, we request funding in the amount of **\$17,971.40** for the following:

- **Four full-face masks with communications:** \$5,991.40
- **Four hazmat dry suits:** \$11,980.00

Courtesy, Protection, Service

Equipment Description

Full-Face Masks (FFMs)

The FFM is an essential piece of equipment for all Dive Team operations. It protects the diver's face and mucous membranes from exposure to contaminated water, including bacteria, heavy metals, and chemical pollutants commonly found in our local waterways. Additionally, the FFMs are equipped with underwater communication systems, allowing divers to communicate with one another and with surface teams, greatly enhancing operational safety. The masks currently in use are over 17 years old, and replacement parts are no longer available from the manufacturer, posing a significant safety concern.

Haz-Mat Dry Suits

Dry suits are worn on every dive operation and are designed to fully encapsulate the diver's body (in conjunction with gloves and FFMs) to prevent exposure to hazardous substances in the water. The suits are constructed with trilaminate materials, sealed with latex hoods and cuffs, and treated with a special chemical-resistant coating. These suits protect against bacterial, chemical, and biological contaminants, ensuring diver health and safety.

Background

The Dive Team began informally prior to 1992 with two off-duty SCUBA-certified deputies. In 1996, it became a formal part of the Sheriff's Office. Over the years, it has evolved to meet increasing demands, acquiring advanced equipment and training:

- **2000:** Adoption of full-face masks and Life Guard Systems (LGS) certification.
- **2001:** Introduction of underwater communications.
- **2003–2004:** Transition to agency-owned dive gear and surface supply systems.
- **2008:** Complete equipment loss due to Hurricane Ike; gear was replaced via grant.
- **Since 2008:** Incremental updates to dry suits and regulators; return to SCUBA systems.

Despite these efforts, much of our equipment is now outdated, making this grant request both timely and necessary.

Equipment Needs Summary

Equipment	Quantity	Total Cost
Full-face masks with communications	4	\$5,991.40
Hazmat dry suits	4	<u>\$11,980.00</u>
Total Request		\$17,971.40

Courtesy, Protection, Service

Program Justification and Impact

1. **Public Safety**

The Dive Team plays a vital role in evidence recovery, enabling prosecution in criminal cases, and in victim recovery, providing closure to grieving families.

2. **Community Engagement**

Our team participates in numerous outreach events such as Kids' Day at the Galveston County Fair and Rodeo, and provides presentations for dive clubs, schools, and youth organizations. We also assist in unique programs like the "astronaut experience" through Space Center Houston.

3. **Interagency Collaboration**

The team routinely assists all agencies within Galveston County, as well as external local, state, and federal law enforcement entities. Our reputation and expertise have resulted in multi-agency deployments, even across state lines.

4. **Training and Professional Development**

Monthly training sessions—both within and outside the county—ensure our divers remain certified, competent, and compliant with international safety standards. Each team member is trained on the specific equipment they use during operations.

5. **Emergency and Disaster Preparedness**

Several Dive Team members are certified in Swift Water Rescue, enabling us to respond to natural disasters by deploying in shallow-water boats to assist in civilian rescue operations.

Conclusion

On behalf of the Galveston County Sheriff's Office, we sincerely thank the Mary Moody Northern Endowment for considering our request. Your support will enhance the safety of our divers, improve our operational effectiveness, and increase our capacity to serve Galveston County and beyond.

We are committed to upholding public trust and continuing our mission with professionalism, dedication, and compassion. This grant will help us continue to do so safely and effectively.

Respectfully,



Jimmy Fullen
Sheriff

Galveston County Sheriff's Office



Mark Henry
County Judge

Galveston County, TX

Courtesy, Protection, Service

O R D E R Q U O T E

Diving Unlimited International
1148 Delevan Drive
San Diego, CA 92102

Telephone: 619-236-1203

Dear Customer,

This Document Serves As A Quote For The Items Listed Below. Please Review The Information Presented Here. If You Have Any Questions Or You Wish To Place An Order, Please Contact Us At The Address Or Phone Number Printed Above And Refer To Our Quote Number 183043 In Your Correspondence.

Our Quote #: 183043 Your Customer #: 119499 Quote Date: 12/09/24

Bill To:	Ship To:	Ship Via:
Galveston Co Sheriff's Office	Galveston Co Sheriff's Office	UPS Ground Serv
601 54th St.	601 54th St.	
Attn: Jacob Manuel	Attn: Jacob Manuel	SHIP DATE:
Galveston TX 77501	Galveston TX 77501	02/15/25
USA		

Shipping Instructions:

Freight Terms: Payment Terms:
credit card

Item-No/Description	Quantity	Um	Price	Disc	Net Price
111920 Public Safety TLS, Red O/L	3.000	EA	2,781.0000	.00	8,343.00
720750 Rock Boots, sizes TBD w/ order	3.000	PR	.0000	.00	.00
MISC 13.5" CF200 KneePads installed on each Drysuit	3.000	EA	120.0000	.00	360.00
MISC LG CARGO POCKET INSTALLED ON EACH DRYSUIT	3.000	EA	120.0000	.00	360.00
302264 Kit, Zip Neck/Hood Combo G1	3.000	EA	208.5000	.00	625.50
240151 Hood, Liner Duo for Ltx Hood Hood	3.000	EA	69.0000	.00	207.00
302377 Kit, Gloves, Zip w/Dam, HD, M	1.000	EA	208.5000	.00	208.50

O R D E R Q U O T E

Item-No/Description	Quantity	Um	Price	Disc	Net Price
302378 Kit,Gloves, Zip w/Dam, HD, L	3.000	EA	208.5000	.00	625.50
FREIGHT Shipping & Handling	1.000	EA	200.0000	.00	200.00

Total Quantity:	23.000	Total Amount:	10,929.50
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*** The Above Total Does Not Include Misc Charges, Freight And Sales Tax ***



Quote

Date: 12/8/2024
Quote # 2024-GCSO-FFMDRY

Sold To **Galveston County Sheriff's Office**
Attn: Jacob Manuel
(409) 392-1768
jacob.manuel@co.galveston.tx.us

Qty	Description	Unit Price	Line Total
4	900401-000 – OTS Guardian FFM with Buddy Phone Communications Package. Includes: Complete OTS Guardian FFM (Any Color Combination) & OTS Buddy Phone Communication System (OTS-BUD- D2)	1497.85	\$ 5,991.40
3	Argonaut PSD Orange Flex Dry Suit Includes: Pockets, boots, reflective tape, PSI Wrist Seals, Si-Tech Changeable Neck Seal, and Kevlar reinforcement. Included accessory package: bag, separate hood, changing mat, and cleaning kit	2995.00	\$ 8,985.00

Subtotal	\$ 14,976.40
Sales Tax	0.00
Total	\$ 14,976.40

Tax Exempt # _____

**1. This a Public Safety Confidential Quote good
for 60 days from date of Quote.**

Thank you for your business!

Mammoth Dive Academy 107 West Way St STE 26, Lake Jackson, Texas 77566 (979) 288-6118
info@divemammoth.com



Sport Divers of Houston

20814 Gulf Fwy, Suite #60
Webster Texas 77598
(281) 338-1611

Invoice - Quote

Jacob Manuel-13560704

Quote#: 17850

12-04-2024 - 03:53:48 PM

Sales Person: Mike-3333879

Qty	Unit Price	Description	PC	Tax	Ext.Price
4	600.00	OTS Guardian Full Face Mask, Blk/Red 920001-021 Size:Black/Red	M	Yes	2400.00

Sub Total	\$2400.00
Taxable Amount	\$0.00
Sales Tax	\$0.00
Total after tax	\$2400.00
Total Amount	\$2400.00

Quote Notes
ots -X4

Thank-you! Come back soon!