

From: Wood, Aaron
To: Soura, Christian <ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>
CC: Weathers, Hugh <hwheathe@scda.sc.gov>
Date: 10/26/2012 4:29:53 PM
Subject: SC Department of Agriculture 2013-14 budget request

Christian,

SC Department of Agriculture (SCDA) has tremendous marketing and regulatory responsibilities across the state. Under Commissioner Weathers' leadership, we understand the critical importance of what we do – there's nothing more essential than a safe and secure food supply – and want to perform at the highest level. We have been, and continue to be, resourceful, and in order to provide valuable service to our constituents there are some targeted needs that can be addressed through non-recurring appropriations. As you requested, basic itemizations / justifications for non-recurring funds are listed below.

\$ 200,000 : Requested funds would be used in the media / public information area to proactively increase efficiency, lower costs, provide more resources for fewer staffers, and reduce demand for outside contractors, through investment in: replace and repair printing equipment; upgrade software; purchase photography, video production, digital display, and presentation equipment; mobile computer equipment; and professional development.

75,000 : This includes reconditioning and/or replacement of the refrigeration system at the Pee Dee State Farmers Market and is based on estimates by HVAC contractors who have inspected the units.

250,000 : These funds would allow for an objective study of the growth potential of the Greenville State Farmers Market while comparing the current location to other possible sites. This study would also contain a cost assessment of upgrading the current facilities to meet current standards and expansion of facilities to meet consumer demand for local products and producer needs for additional marketing opportunities. It would then compare the costs of accomplishing those goals through relocation and new construction.

250,000: SCDA has statutory responsibilities under approximately 37 separate laws, some of which include regulatory and enforcement action accomplished primarily through laboratory and inspection functions. Food Safety is of critical importance with little room for error. To ensure continued safety of the public, new data processing software and laboratory instrumentation is necessary for pesticide residue analysis, dairy and meat component and labeling verification, and food establishment inspection and compliance.

1,750,000: This figure is a preliminary estimate. Costs include design, development, construction of the State Metrology Lab, of which the function is required by law. This elite certified metrology lab is ranked at the top nationally and services many states throughout the southeast and midsouth regions. The operation is revenue neutral with income through fees covering overhead costs and a new facility would create opportunities to generate additional money.

Sincerely,
Aaron

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