

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

BUTTE-SILVER BOW LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT
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RECEIVED
JUN 25 2019

BY: 19-30108

JUNE 25, 2019

TO: BUTTE-SILVER BOW COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

RE: EXPENSES INCURRED BY BROADWATER COUNTY (BARRUS PROSECUTION)

Dear Members of the Council:

On May 16th, 2017 Broadwater County Deputy Mason Moore was murdered as he pursued a suspect vehicle near the town of Three Forks, Montana. Officers responding to assist Moore, found him dead in his vehicle as a result of a number of gunshot wounds.

Broadwater County issued a statewide broadcast in an attempt to locate the suspect vehicle containing the suspects who had murdered Deputy Moore.

A short time later, a Butte-Silver Bow police officer located the suspect vehicle as it was westbound on the Interstate 90, approaching Butte. Other Butte officers came to assist and they attempted to stop the suspect vehicle, which was traveling at approximately 100 miles per hour.

This was the beginning of a pursuit that would cross Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, Powell County, Granite County, and end up with a final exchange of gunfire in Missoula County. As a result of the incident, one suspect (Marshall Barrus) was killed and his father (Lloyd Barrus) was wounded and in custody.

During the pursuit, three (3) Butte-Silver Bow Vehicles were struck and disabled by gunfire from the suspect vehicle. Three other law enforcement vehicles were also struck by gunfire from the suspects. These vehicles were from the Montana Highway Patrol, Powell County, and Granite County. Fortunately, despite the efforts of the suspects, all of the courageous officers involved in the pursuit survived.

The surviving suspect (Lloyd Barrus) is charged with Accountability for the Deliberate Homicide of Deputy Mason Moore, Accountability for the Attempted Deliberate Homicide of two Butte police officers, Attempted Deliberate Homicide of one Butte police officer, Attempted Deliberate Homicide of four additional law enforcement officers, ten counts of assault on various law enforcement officers, and the Illegal possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Broadwater County Attorney Cory Swanson has requested financial assistance from Butte-Silver Bow. As you can see from Swanson's letter to the members of the Butte-Silver Bow Council of Commissioners as well as the Chief Executive, other jurisdictions have stepped up with contributions to assist in the prosecution of Lloyd Barrus. Notably, Granite County has pledged \$25,000 to Broadwater County to assist in this effort. Contributions from other jurisdictions are outlined in Swanson's letter. I have included Swanson's letter with this communication.

Deputy Mason Moore will never return to his family or the members of the Broadwater County Sheriff's Office. We, in Butte-Silver Bow are fortunate that we did not lose three of our brave officers on that night. Numerous other officers could have been killed as well.

As Butte-Silver Bow Sheriff, I cannot even begin to describe how thankful I am that I did not have to knock on doors that night to deliver horrible news to three families. My friend, Broadwater County Sheriff Wynn Meehan was not so fortunate.

It is my request that you consider adding funds to the budget of the Butte-Silver Bow Law Enforcement Department to be granted to Broadwater County so Mr. Swanson can continue with his mission to prosecute Lloyd Barrus for the alleged offenses noted above.

Sheriff Meehan of Broadwater County and Jodi Moore, Deputy Mason Moore's widow have offered to come before this body to answer any questions you may have in regard to this request. I would also be glad to answer any questions that I can.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Lester". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "E".

Sheriff Ed Lester