



Sheriff Royce Toney

Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office

- 400 St. John Street
- Monroe, LA 71201
- Telephone (318) 329-1200
- www.opso.net

**CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 1511 OF
THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT:**

Pursuant to Title XV, Subtitle A, Section 1511 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Pub. L. 111-5, Feb. 17, 2009) ("ARRA"), I, Royce Toney, Sheriff of Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, hereby certify that the infrastructure investment funded by ARRA has received the full review and vetting required by law and that I accept responsibility that such investment is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. I further certify that the specific information required by section 1511 concerning each such investment (a description of the investment, the estimated cost, and the amount of ARRA funds to be used) is attached and provided on the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office website, available to the public at <http://www.opso.net/> and linked to www.Recovery.gov/.

I understand that my agency may not receive ARRA infrastructure investment funding unless this certification is made and posted.

Sheriff Royce Toney, CEO, OPSO

Government Entity for Ouachita Parish, Louisiana

Signed this 28th day of July, 2010



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INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

DESCRIPTION

The purchase of the former Ridgedale Academy, a private school located in West Monroe, Louisiana, has afforded Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office an opportunity to expand Ouachita Correctional Center by expanding our inmate work release program. The work release program allows inmates to work outside the prison at local businesses for wages just prior to their release. This affords them the opportunity to learn a viable trade and have some money to begin life on the outside again. Many of the inmates have kept the same jobs after they are released. The present work release facility is an annex building of the old E.A. Conway Hospital (state). The hospital has long been replaced and this annex, though newer at the time of the closing, was never built to house inmates. This facility holds 200 inmates in the work release program at the present time. We are requesting that ARRA funding be used to help renovate a former private school into our work release facility along with a sub-station for our department. A sub-station at this location will add to the safety and security of our jurisdiction on the west side of Ouachita Parish.

The private school has been vacant for several years but structurally is in very good shape. We are in the final stages of purchasing the school. The sale was finalized in July, 2010 and the renovations will begin immediately thereafter. The school has two wings to it and a gymnasium/cafeteria with kitchen. The high school wing is 18,000 square feet and the elementary wing is 12,000 square feet with the cafeteria in between at 4,800 square feet. This will double the bed capacity for work release and afford room for classrooms and counseling areas. As part of our community corrections plan, the re-entry staff will be housed there as well. The cost of the purchase was settled on at \$188,000.00 and the costs of renovation and furnishings are estimated at between \$250,000 and \$300,000. The funding from our ARRA JAG grant (2009-SU-B9-0023, \$82,185. through the State of Louisiana, Commission on Law Enforcement) awarded this summer for prison improvement and ARRA JAG grant (2009-SB-B9-2397, \$171,754.) funding will almost cover the renovation and no ARRA funding was used to purchase the property.

Our correctional facility is considered between the minimum and maximum security prisons with a capacity to hold 1160 inmates. The daily head counts average between 1100 and 1200 inmates. This is due primarily to the fact that nearly 50% of our prison population are pre-trial detainees, which we separate from the general population. By being able to move 200 more qualified inmates into the work release/re-entry program would alleviate a great deal of the problem of over-crowding and afford the inmates the opportunity to improve their circumstances for the future.