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**ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

33 CAPITOL STREET  
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

JOSEPH A. FOSTER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

ANN M. RICE  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL



December 4, 2013

Her Excellency Governor Margaret Wood Hassan  
And the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

Your Excellency and Members of the Council:

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Justice to accept and expend \$25,000 from the Consumer Fund Escrow account #02-20-20-200510-2611-003-402499, for the purpose of purchasing a vehicle to be used for investigations in the Consumer Protection Bureau, Mortgage (Financial) Fraud Unit effective the date of Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2014.

These funds are to be budgeted in the Department of Justice, Consumer Protection Bureau, Mortgage Settlement Funds as follows:

Mortgage Settlement Funds - 02-20-20-200510-3310  
State Fiscal Year 2014

<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Requested Action</u>	<u>New Budget</u>
010-500100	Personal Services Class	\$34,866	\$0	\$34,866
013-500132	Personal Services Unclass.	\$65,000	\$0	\$65,000
014-500134	Personal Services Unclass.	\$50,669	\$0	\$50,669
015-500137	Personal Services Unclass.	\$57,505	\$0	\$57,505
020-500200	Current Expense	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
030-500300	Equipment	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
050-500109	Personal Services Temp	\$16,278	\$0	\$16,278
060-500601	Benefits	\$105,734	\$0	\$105,734
070-500704	In State Travel	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
072-500575	Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0
080-500714	Out of State Travel	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
233-500769	Litigation	<u>\$150,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>
	Total	\$495,052	\$25,000	\$520,052
<u>Revenue</u>				
009-40479	Agency Income (Mortgage Settlement Funds)	\$495,052	\$25,000	\$520,052

## EXPLANATION

The Department of Justice established the Mortgage Settlement Unit (Financial Fraud Unit) as part of the State Fiscal Year 14 & 15 biennial budget using funds received from the national agreement with the five largest banks in the country. The Department received \$9.5 million dollars as part of this settlement; \$6 million was budgeted to provide services to homeowners directly experiencing the negative effects of the housing crisis. The remaining funds are being used to support the Financial Fraud Unit for the current biennium and subsequent years. The expectation is that the unit will become self-supportive.

This request is to purchase a vehicle for the unit specifically for the investigator who will be on the road conducting investigations, serving subpoenas, and executing warrants, all of which give rise to the potential that the investigator will encounter hostile individuals and volatile situations. For personal safety reasons, and to minimize the chance that such individuals might be able to identify an investigator's personal vehicle, it is not advisable that investigators use their personal cars on duty.

The Department of Justice's fleet will not increase with the approval of this request. A 2004 Chevrolet Impala was put into surplus due to the age of the vehicle, the cost of repairs/maintenance, and the number of miles on the vehicle (118,165).

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning this request.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



*for* Joseph A. Foster  
Attorney General

JAF/k  
#977676