

Robert was wondering if this was granted. (He asked through Libby)



14,284

FILED FOR RECORD
at 12:30 o'clock P M

JUN 27 2017

JENNIFER LINDENZWEIG
County Clerk, Hunt County, TX
By *J. Lindenzweig*

United States
Department of
Agriculture

June 13, 2017

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Dear Hunt County Official:

Wildlife Services

501 W. 10th St.
Room B-10
Fort Worth, TX
76102-3637

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the Texas Wildlife Services Program. Our program has had to make a lot of sacrifices these past several years, including cutting cost for some beneficial equipment. Your county's willingness to step in and support our mission by providing nightvision equipment has allowed our technician to expand his work schedule into the night. As you know, many of the animals we deal with are primarily active at night, and the use of traps or other control tools, are not always successful. The nightvision you have provided Robert has been used to a great extent to aid him in conducting feral hog and coyote control in the county. However, the unit he has been using is in need of repair. Estimated cost would likely exceed the cost for a new unit.

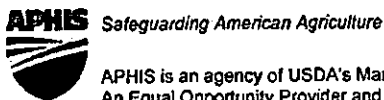
Currently, several of our employees in other areas have discovered the advantage of using thermal over nightvision. Thermal works on the premise of heat signature and can actually be used in daylight, as well as at night. The thermal scopes can "see" further and in conditions, such as fog, when the nightvision will not work. Thermal scopes are used by a wide range of individuals including first responders in fire and search and rescue scenarios. In our line of work, they allow us an advantage of being in the field when the animals are actively causing their damage.

I understand Robert may have discussed with some of you about the possibility of replacing the current device you have provided. If the county has interest in doing this, I would suggest consider the purchase of a thermal device. If you need a model or a location to purchase, Robert can provide that. For your information, he recently used an IR Hunter Mark II thermal device borrowed from one of our specialists. This unit will cost approximately \$5500 with the suggested battery pack. There are units that cost less, and there are certainly some that cost a lot more. This particular unit happens to be one that we have used and has really proven itself useful to our line of work.

Please understand that providing these devices is not a requirement we make of a county. In the case of Hunt County the nightvision that was provided was additional support for a tool to help our employee do a more efficient job. I certainly understand how tight budgets are in these times. However, if the county sees fit to help support us with additional equipment, please know that it will be used to aid the county in the wildlife damage management work we do.

Should you have any questions, please let me know, or contact Wildlife Damage Management Technician Robert Dunham

Sincerely,
Randy M. Smith
Randy M. Smith
District Supervisor



APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Federal Relay Service
(Voice/TTY/ASCII/Spanish)
1-800-877-8339