

### **3A – DISTRICT ATTORNEY HIGH TECH CRIME UNIT**

- 1. Program Area:** Public Protection
- 2. Agencies and Departments involved:** District Attorney
- 3. New or previously identified in earlier Strategic Financial Plans, if previously identified what has changed and why:** Previously Identified – No changes
- 4. Description of the project/program – what it is and what it will achieve:** With the proliferation of computers and the growth of the Internet, incidence of high tech crime, aka cybercrime, is also growing. Cybercrimes can be broadly defined to include all crimes in which computer technology is used as an instrument in committing, or assisting in the commission of a crime (pornography, identify theft, fraudulent transfer of funds, email viruses, etc.) or which is the target of a criminal act. In addition, computer technology is now commonly used to store information that is related to other violent and non-violent crimes, such as homicides, sexual assaults, drug sales, burglaries and frauds. Computers and computer technology (e.g. software) can also be the contraband or the fruits of the crime itself. These types of crime can inflict extensive damage via email viruses and cause massive monetary losses and interruptions to businesses and individuals through online fraud.  
  
To address and prosecute the growth of cybercrime cases, the District Attorney is proposing the formation of the High Tech Unit (HTU) with the Economic Crimes Unit, adding staff in FYs 2004-05, 2007-08 and 2010-11.
- 5. Potential Funding Sources:** Primarily the County General Fund. Received a one-time state grant of \$100,000 for equipment.
- 6. Cost – estimate and identify separately one-time and ongoing costs:** \$1,104,466 in FY 2004-05, \$15,703,924 for FYs 2005-06 through 2012-13.
- 7. Community Awareness (stakeholders):** District Attorney, Orange County Police Departments, Los Angeles and Ventura District Attorney offices
- 8. Personnel – will the program/project require additional staffing? If so, estimate number of positions:** Yes, proposes to add 15 new staff members, five in each of the following years FYs 2004-05, 2007-08 and 2010-11.
- 9. Mandated or discretionary:** Discretionary program, however, prosecution of these crimes is mandated.
- 10. Implementation period if funding were available:** 10 year period