

# GOVERNOR'S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

February 7, 2024

**DIRECTOR ROBERT G. WOODS, IV**  
SC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Re: Governors Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Awards

Dear Law Enforcement Official:

**SHERIFF J. LEE FOSTER**  
NEWBERRY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
SC SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR

I am pleased to announce the continuation of the Governor's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Awards Program for exceptional service during 2023. The awards were established by Governor McMaster, per SC Legislative Proviso 63.10, for the following categories: State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, and Municipal Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Each of these three winners will be awarded \$10,000. Proviso 63.10 reads as follows:

**PRESIDENT JOHN C. BLACKMON**  
SC FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

**63.10. (DPS: Governors Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award)** *The Department of Public Safety shall establish an advisory committee to create an award nomination and recipient selection process for the Governors Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. The advisory committee annually shall select a state law enforcement officer of the year, a county law enforcement officer of the year, and a municipal law enforcement officer of the year. Each winner shall be recognized by the Office of the Governor and also shall receive an award of \$10,000 to be distributed by the department. These awards shall not be subject to South Carolina income taxes.*

**DIRECTOR ROBERT H. BOYLES, JR.**  
SC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR L. EDEN HENDRICK**  
SC DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

The purpose of this communication is to inform you that members of the Governor's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Advisory Committee are now soliciting nominations for the 2023 Officer of the Year awards. This committee will review the finalists in each of the three categories in mid-April to determine the winners. Three finalists from each of the following organizations will be considered: Palmetto State Law Enforcement Officers Association, SC Fraternal Order of Police, SC Law Enforcement Officers Association, SC Police Chiefs Association, and SC Sheriffs' Association. In addition, one finalist from each of the following organizations will be considered: SC Probation and Parole Association, SC Troopers Association, SC Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers Association, and Society of Former (SLED) Agents. Winners will be announced and presented with their awards at a date/time and location to be determined.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR J.J. JONES**  
SC LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSN.  
SC POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

**CHIEF MARK A. KEEL**  
SC LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

**DIRECTOR BRYAN STIRLING**  
SC DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

**CHIEF CHITO WALKER**  
CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Attached to this letter are the nomination form and accompanying guidelines. **Please note that nominations are for service during 2023.** Please forward your nomination(s) through your respective law enforcement association for their initial review and selection of the finalist(s) to be submitted for this committee's consideration. The deadline for submitting your nomination(s) will be provided by each law enforcement association. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Jim McClary, who serves as the administrator of the SC Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame, at (803) 896-8756 or [JamesMcClary@scdps.gov](mailto:JamesMcClary@scdps.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Woods, IV". The signature is stylized and includes a small "IV" at the end.

Robert G. Woods, IV  
Committee Chair

Attachments