

FEMA Homeland Security 2021 Port Security Grant Program Investment Justification

The City of Pascagoula is located at the mouth of the Pascagoula River and the Gulf of Mexico. The City of Pascagoula's security is paramount because of three major factors: national defense, energy production, and domestic and international economy. The Pascagoula Chevron Refinery, Ingalls Shipbuilding, and the Port of Pascagoula are located within approximately twenty-six square miles. Ingalls Shipbuilding is located within Pascagoula city limits along the mouth of the Pascagoula River. It is the largest supplier of U.S. Navy surface combatants and has built nearly seventy percent of the U.S. Navy Fleet of warships. The Pascagoula Chevron Refinery is located to the east of Pascagoula in Bayou Casotte Industrial Park and is a private terminal in the Port of Pascagoula. It processes 330,000 barrels of crude oil each day. The Port of Pascagoula is the largest seaport in the state of Mississippi and is ranked as a top 25 U.S. port in foreign cargo volume. It has two harbors. The East Harbor is in Bayou Casotte and the West Harbor in the Pascagoula River. Over 26 million tons of cargo move through the port annually. Private terminals at the Port house such commerce as Mississippi Phosphates Corporation, VT Halter Marine, Gulf LNG Energy, LLC, First Chemical Corporation, VT Marine, and the previously mentioned Pascagoula Chevron Refinery. The Port's two harbors include a combination of public and private terminals handling in excess of 32 million tons of cargo annually. It serves as the local sponsor for the federal navigation project.

The Pascagoula Police Department and the Jackson County Sheriff's Department are on call to assist the Port of Pascagoula and to patrol marine areas to reduce potential security and safety risks from small and large vessels at all ports of entry.

The City of Pascagoula seeks funding for updated imaging sonar equipment and interoperable tactical communication devices for use on the Pascagoula Police Department's marine patrol vessel. This vessel is used to patrol and provide surveillance capabilities for the Port of Pascagoula. The new equipment will give officers improved capability to check vessels above and below the water line, support the detection of underwater security threats, and enhance maritime domain awareness. Tactical communication devices will allow for critical communication between maritime security providers during emergencies and will enhance intelligence sharing and analysis between the City and the Port of Pascagoula.

The City of Pascagoula's goal is to help maintain the safety of the Port of Pascagoula and the vessels that call on our port and city. The addition of updated sonar and communication equipment on the patrol vessel will support surveillance near the port waterways and provide maritime security risk mitigation. The City of Pascagoula and the Pascagoula Police Department are committed to the safety of the Port of Pascagoula and will continue to meet these guidelines and strive to surpass them in the years to come.