

January 8, 2009

The Honorable Members of the Common Council  
200 East Wells Street, Room 202  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: 2003 Asset Forfeiture Plan

Dear Council Members:

Pursuant to Common Council File #920252, adopted June 16, 1992, this file requests Common Council authorization for the Milwaukee Police Department to expend \$379,300 from its Asset Forfeiture Funds. The following is an itemized description of the anticipated expenditures included in the resolution. These expenditures are in accordance with the guidelines of the Federal Asset Forfeiture sharing program. All the items below were discussed in detail in the 2003 plan. This resolution will leave \$20,096.01 in the Asset Forfeiture Trust Account.

**1. Administrative Fees \$10,000**

The U.S. Marshall's Office recovers its administrative expenses from the value of cash and assets seized. For cash awards, the Police Department receives an amount net of the federal government's legal costs and other expenses. However, the Police Department must make direct payments to offset expenses incurred in seizure of vehicles or other non-monetary property. Payment of these fees allows continued participation in this program.

**2. Auto Track Fees \$14,400**

This is a search engine that links together public records, publicly available records and proprietary records into a massive database that is a valuable investigative tool. With these additional funds, we can utilize the system to a much greater extent, increasing our efficiency and effectiveness in criminal investigations.

**3. Boat Motor Replacement (s) \$15,000**

The Department operates two harbor patrol boats, and is in need of some engine replacements/upgrades for the 2003 season. In 2002, there were a number of costly repairs, and one of the outboard engines was replaced. The other engine needs replacement in 2003.

**4. Bomb Suits \$20,000**

The Department currently has only one functional bomb suit, which is worn by the officers operating the robot and also by officers examining and detonating suspected explosive devices. This suit was purchased in 1989. This suit is a size large, and is not usable by all members of the squad. The \$20,000 will fund one of the bomb suits included in the 2003 plan.

- 5. Repairs to existing Bomb robot \$20,000**  
The existing bomb robot was purchased in 1989. Several components such as arms, the servo motor control modules and the bomb track are in need of replacement.
- 6. Canine Units \$10,000**  
This funds the food, medical care and boarding for three drug-interdiction canines. Without funding, the Department will be less effective in drug interdiction and subsequently less successful in its attempts to secure federally seized forfeiture funds.
- 7. Storage of Confiscated Autos \$2,000**  
Vehicles that are seized as part of an investigation must be properly and securely stored until a hearing examiner determines the final disposition of the case. Use of these funds provides the police with an investigative tool and serves as a key punitive measure against convicted drug dealers.
- 8. Remotely Operated Underwater Video Camera \$16,000**  
This remotely operated camera, in conjunction with our boats, will allow the underwater investigation team to conduct more efficient evidence and recovery searches.
- 9. GPS for Boat \$1,000**  
This unit will replace the obsolete unit now in one of our harbor patrol boats. It has additional search and rescue features.
- 10. Homicide Unit Equipment \$4,000**  
Our homicide investigation unit needs various equipment, including crime viewing screens, forensic light sources, a trajectory kit, cordless lights, in order to conduct its operations more effectively.
- 11. MDT Maintenance Fees \$2,500**  
The fees are used to fund the remaining “first-generation” mobile data terminals that use the Milwaukee County radio infrastructure for access.
- 12. Mounted Patrol Unit \$100,000**  
The cost of leasing seven horses for the Mounted Patrol includes all resources employed by the local stable.
- 13. Training Audio Visual Equipment \$15,000**  
The training academy does extensive recruit, in- service and regional training. The current audiovisual equipment in the classrooms has been in service for a long term, and is unreliable and difficult to operate. This equipment will improve the quality of our training operations.
- 14. Raid jackets \$1,500**

These jackets are necessary for plainclothes officers participating in warrant executions and multi-jurisdictional operations. These are essential for officer identification and safety.

**15. Recruit Training Upgrades \$6,000**

The Department is participating with the State of Wisconsin in a pilot program to upgrade police recruit training. Part of the focus of the upgrade is to provide more scenario- based training to recruits. This will provide the funds to expand and upgrade our current scenarios.

**16. Surveillance Equipment \$46,000**

This equipment enhances the Department's ability to conduct covert investigations and safely obtain the necessary evidentiary photos and video footage.

**17. TEU Supplies \$4,000**

The Department's TEU unit conducts search warrants, which requires supplies and equipment to keep them safe in highly volatile and dangerous conditions. Supplies have been perennially funded from forfeitures, which are often directly related to this unit's duties.

**18. Vehicles and Related Equipment \$75,000**

These funds would be used to purchase vehicles used in undercover operations and a replacement truck for the Radio Shop. The Department used Asset Forfeiture funds to purchase undercover vehicles in 1996, 1997, and 1999. The undercover fleet is aging rapidly, and a number of vehicles with over 100,000 miles must be replaced in order to reduce excessive repair costs. The radio shop equipment repair truck also needs replacement, and no operating funds were available for this purpose.

**19. Vice surveillance equipment maintenance and repair \$3,500**

The Vice Control Division does much of the work that results in drug arrests and asset forfeiture seizures. In order to do this, the division has an inventory of surveillance equipment which needs repair in order to maintain its effectiveness and usefulness.

**20. Inflatable Boat and related equipment \$13,400**

The Department does not have an inflatable, portable boat to use for search and rescue operations located at inland water sites such as rivers, ponds, and lakes. This boat will be used by the underwater investigation team for evidence searches and recovery operations. This will reduce our reliance on other agencies in case of emergencies.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR L. JONES  
CHIEF OF POLICE