



Police Department

Arthur L. Jones
Chief of Police

December 13, 2000

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

RE: 2000 Asset Forfeiture Plan

Dear Council Members:

Pursuant to Common Council File #920252, the Milwaukee Police Department submits annually "a report on anticipated receipt of [Federally seized forfeiture] funds in the next calendar year, together with a plan, including priorities for expenditure of such funds."

As of November 14, 2000 the Asset Forfeiture account balance was \$288,946.53. Cash receipts are subject to many variables, among them the uncertainty of whether the Department will receive funds, the exact share of any seized assets the Department will be awarded, and the effects of changes in the Federal guidelines for this program.

In order to provide flexibility to meet changing needs, this plan includes items that total \$382,300. Historically, roughly half of the items presented in the plan are eventually funded, based on the needs of the Department throughout the coming fiscal year.

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 directly pay the expenses incurred in seizure of vehicles or other non-monetary property. If these funds are denied, the Department will be unable to accept any seized assets. These costs will not be shifted to the tax-supported budget.

2. Training \$50,000

Asset forfeiture funds are used for employee training and education. Preparing employees for greater job responsibilities, or increasing effectiveness within existing duties, has a bottom-line effect on law enforcement. The emphasis is generally on training related to narcotics detection, or investigating drug-related activities.

Denial of this item would cut total training expenditures in half, with a noticeable effect on the professionalism and quality of the Department's work force.

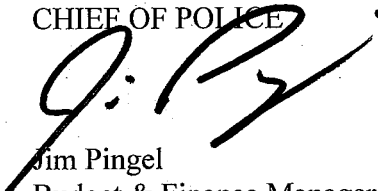
- 3. Storage of confiscated autos \$2,000**
Vehicles that are seized as part of an arrest must be properly and securely stored until a hearing examiner determines the final disposition of the case, and the vehicle. Denial of these funds would take away confiscation as both an investigative tool and a key punitive measure against convicted drug dealers.
- 4. MDT Maintenance Fees \$2,500**
This provides funding for the remaining "first-generation" mobile data terminals that use the Milwaukee County radio infrastructure for access.
- 5. Avenues West \$17,000**
This represents a portion of the 2001 operating costs for this substation. Weed and Seed grant funding has been requested for this purpose. Asset Forfeiture funds would keep the station running in the event of a reduction in grant funding, or unanticipated additional costs.
- 6. Canine Units \$18,000**
This funds the food, medical care and boarding for three drug-interdiction canines. Replacement of one canine is anticipated in 2001. The Department will not have canines without this item.
- 7. Background Unit – Moving Expenses \$10,000**
The Background Investigation Unit has operated at Capitol Court in recent years. With the demolition of Capitol Court, this Unit will move back to the Police Administration Unit. This amount is needed to remodel office space in the Administration Building.
- 8. Cellular Phones \$42,000**
Asset Forfeiture has been critical to funding cell phones, which are an increasingly important tool in community-oriented policing.
- 9. Investigative Funds \$50,000**
These funds enable detectives to get information and evidence they need to arrest and successfully prosecute drug dealers.
- 10. Mounted Patrol Unit \$70,000**
The cost of leasing five horses for the Mounted Patrol includes all resources employed by the local stable.
- 11. Replacement Polygraph \$11,000**
This would replace the 18-year-old machine used by the Investigation Bureau. It is an important tool in solving crimes.
- 12. Radio Repair Equipment \$6,000**
This would replace a 20-year-old piece of equipment that is used to repair Department radios. Supplying the Police Department's radio technicians with appropriate equipment is a much more cost-effective maintenance plan than sending radios to the manufacturer or third parties for servicing.

- 13. Audio/Visual Equipment Upgrades** **\$9,000**
The Department uses video production equipment for investigative purposes and in preparation of public service announcements. This funding would replace a limited amount of the outdated equipment still in use for A/V production.
- 14. Computers for direct entry of investigative reports** **\$12,800**
Increasingly, detectives are making the transition to typing their own investigative reports via computer word processing. This item would fund up to four additional computers to be used by detectives in the Criminal Investigation Bureau.
- 15. Computer Upgrades** **\$12,500**
This will fund the upgrade of four computers used at the Training Academy (one by the Range Sergeant, two in the Safety Division and one in Internal Affairs). This funding will replace computers that cannot run any of the software currently in use by the rest of the Department.
- 16. Large-Format Printer** **\$11,000**
The Department's Print Shop prepares large color posters and publications in-house, at a great cost savings versus contracting-out for desktop publishing services. This printer will improve the quality and timeliness of producing large, custom publications.
- 17. Laser Speed Detection Units** **\$30,000**
This will expand the number of laser units available for simultaneous use by the motorcycle patrol officers.
- 18. Miscellaneous motorcycle accessories** **\$10,000**
This item will help equip the patrol motorcycles with appropriate safety equipment. For example, the addition of LED emergency lights that can operate when the cycle is turned off with minimal battery draw, thereby increasing officers' safety at prolonged traffic stops or accident scenes.
- 19. Surveillance Equipment** **\$8,000**
This equipment helps the Vice Control and Intelligence Divisions conduct covert investigations and take photos and video footage as evidence safely.

This plan may be revised, pursuant to the provisions of 920252, in the event that the Department's needs or priorities should change.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR L. JONES
CHIEF OF POLICE


Jim Pingel
Budget & Finance Manager

ALJ:JBP