

January 8, 2009

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

RE: 2004 Asset Forfeiture Plan

Dear Council Members:

Pursuant to Common Council File #920252, this file requests Common Council authorization for the Milwaukee Police Department to expend \$404,900 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 the 2004 plan. This resolution will leave \$161,982 in the Asset Forfeiture Trust Account.

- 1. Administrative Fees \$7,000**
The U.S. Marshal'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. Computer Upgrades \$25,000**
This item will serve as a source of funds in the event of unforeseen equipment failures. Because there is no replacement budgeting, these funds would supplement capital, grant, and operating funding dedicated to replacing the Department's computer infrastructure.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Mounted patrol \$100,000**
The cost of leasing seven horses for the Mounted Patrol includes all resources employed by the local stable.

- 6. Printing press \$23,000**
The Department needs to replace a 1970 vintage printing press that recently failed. This press is used for smaller printing jobs and produces approximately 40% of the Department's printing needs.
- 7. Rifle Scopes \$3,000**
These scopes would be used on rifles for the tactical unit. They would replace existing scopes, providing superior optics and more efficiency.
- 8. Training \$25,000**
Asset Forfeiture funds are used for employee training and education. Training prepares employees for greater job responsibilities and increases their effectiveness in regards to their existing duties. Primarily, emphasis is placed on training that consists of narcotics detection and the investigation of drug-related activities.
- 9. Audio Visual Equipment \$25,000**
This would provide funding for a modern audiovisual system for the Police administration building.
- 10. Vehicles and Related Equipment \$80,000**
These funds would be used to purchase vehicles used in tactical operations. One of the vehicles was purchased in 1994 and has over 97,000 miles. Repairs are becoming very costly. Another vehicle is a military surplus vehicle that we received five years ago. This vehicle has become structurally unsound. The floor is extremely rusted and must be replaced, along with the suspension. At this point, it will be more cost effective to replace this vehicle.
- 11. Vest Replacement \$100,000**
The Department's operating resources used to replace officer ballistic vests are finite. The Department is striving to keep the vest replacement cycle at five to six years. These funds would allow us to purchase approximately 100 vests for our officers. The vests are important for officer safety.

Sincerely,

NANNETTE H. HEGERTY
CHIEF OF POLICE

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