

## LRB-FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

JULY 11, 2001 AGENDA

ITEM 7, FILE 010346

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

MARK A. RAMION

This file authorizes the Police Department to expend \$91,000 from the Federal Asset Forfeiture Trust Fund Account for items and purposes identified in the Department's 2001 Asset Forfeiture Expenditure Plan.

### Background

1. Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds come to the Police Department as a result of department participation in the seizure or forfeiture of tangible property or cash from successful drug trafficking investigations. The Federal government requires the funds only be used for increased or enhanced law enforcement efforts; funds may not be used to supplant existing budgetary efforts.
2. Common Council File 920252 requires the Police Department to present an annual Asset Forfeiture Expenditure Plan to the Common Council. The purpose of the plan is to ensure funding decisions provide for the most cost-effective use of these funds. Forfeiture Funds provide a significant level of "discretionary" spending power to the Police Department. A separate resolution is required for the expenditure of Asset Forfeiture funds. Once allocated, the Department can use funds for any approved purpose for a period of up to three years, after which unspent funds revert to the Asset Forfeiture Trust Account and become eligible for re-allocation.

### Discussion

The Police Department is requesting expenditure authority of **\$91, 000** to fund, wholly or partially, four items:

<b>Cellular Phones</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>
<b>Training</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Canine Unit</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Mounted Patrol</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$91,000</b>

- **Cellular Phone Usage** - \$21,000 will be used to fund cell phones as this technology has been proven an important instrument in community policing.
- **Training** - \$25,000 will be used for employee training and education in order to maintain and enhance effectiveness of law enforcement.
- **Canine Unit** - \$10,000 will be used for food, medical care and boarding for the three drug interdiction canines.
- **Mounted Patrol** - \$35,000 will be used for all resources relative to maintaining the horses at the local stable.

**Further Information**

1. If this request is approved, \$222,028 will remain in the 2001 Federal Asset Forfeiture Account.
2. The balance of funds, \$103,414, from the 1998 Asset Forfeiture Account D338 is being returned to the Asset Forfeiture Trust Account. Only the 1999 and 2000 resolutions remain active.

**Fiscal Impact**

**\$91,000**