

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 \$845,000 from its Asset Forfeiture Funds. The following is an itemized description of the anticipated expenditures included in this resolution. These proposed expenditures are in accordance with the guidelines of the Federal Asset Forfeiture Sharing Program. Approval of this resolution will leave \$293,000 in the Asset Forfeiture Trust Account.

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

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 due to seizure of vehicles or other non-monetary property. Payment of these fees allows continued participation in this program.

2. Bomb Suit **\$25,000**

Currently, the Department has only two functional bomb suits, which are worn by the officers operating the bomb disposal robot and also by officers examining and detonating suspected explosive devices. One of these suits was purchased in 1989, and needs replacement.

3. Bomb containment Vessel **\$275,000**

The Department's existing unit dates from 1974. The amount of metal fatigue over 30 years of use makes this vessel risky to use for containment of exploding bombs. The type of metal used in its construction can only be considered safe for use between 50 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit. This unit is not designed to handle weapons of mass destruction or chemical devices. A replacement unit is essential for both the public safety and officer safety.

4. Cellular Phones **\$25,000**

Asset Forfeiture has been crucial to funding cell phones, which are an increasingly important tool in community-oriented policing and a cost effective tool for criminal investigations in the field.

5. Computer Equipment \$37,000

This funding will be used to purchase a forensic evidence recovery device for the Department's new computer crimes section. Without this device, computer evidence cannot be properly analyzed and preserved for use in prosecution.

6. Digital cameras & storage devices \$355,000

The Department needs to convert to the use of digital cameras. This will involve the purchase of cameras, computer storage capacity and the associated computer training for personnel.

7. Printing press \$23,000

The Department needs to replace a 1970 vintage printing press that has failed. This press is used for smaller printing jobs and produces approximately 40% of the Department's printing needs.

8. Purchase of glocks \$12,000

Some of the Department's glock pistols are over 10 year old. The Department seeks to establish funding to replace pistols that can't be repaired due to their age and high usage.

9. Shotgun lights \$43,000

These lights are critical for officer safety. Currently, officers hold a flashlight while taking aim with their shotguns. This does not promote accuracy and is problematic as to the safety of the officer and the public.

10. Tasers \$15,000

In 2003, a successful pilot project for Tasers was funded out of Asset forfeiture in order to evaluate non-lethal force options. These funds would allow us to continue to provide replacement ammunition and tasers for the Department.

11. Training \$25,000

Asset Forfeiture funds are requested for employee training and education. Training prepares employees for greater job responsibilities and increases their effectiveness in regards to their existing duties. Emphasis is placed primarily on training that consists of narcotics detection and the investigation of drug-related activities.

Sincerely,

NANNETTE H. HEGERTY
CHIEF OF POLICE