

LRB-RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

**PUBLIC SAFETY
ITEM 7, FILE # 080150**

**May 29, 2008
Leslie Silletti**

File #080150 is a resolution authorizing the Milwaukee Police Department to accept and expend contributions it receives in the form of federally forfeited tangible property or cash. These contributions will be used for increased or enhanced law enforcement efforts.

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 MPD to present an annual Asset Forfeiture Expenditure Plan to the Common Council. The 2008 Asset Forfeiture Plan is included in Communication File Number 080140 (Item #6 on the Public Safety Committee agenda). The purpose of the Asset Forfeiture 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 (this file) 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 3 years, after which unspent funds revert to the Asset Forfeiture Trust Account and become eligible for re-allocation.
3. The 2008 Asset Forfeiture Plan includes \$1,173,760 of expenses, and this resolution authorizes \$950,040 of expenditure.

Discussion

1. This resolution authorizes the use of Asset Forfeiture money to fund various items requested by the Milwaukee Police Department. MPD has submitted these items based on needs and priorities within the Department. This resolution authorizes expenditures of \$950,040; the Department is not requesting that all items included in the Plan be funded by this resolution.

2. The following items are included in the 2008 Asset Forfeiture Plan- those for which the Department is not currently requesting funding are noted.

- **Audio Visual Equipment** **\$22,500**
 Funds would enable the districts to get laptop computers and projectors to be used at community meetings.
- **Bicycle Patrol** **\$82,025**
 Funds would be used to replace the remainder of current worn bicycle equipment (65 bicycles) currently in use, and allow for 10 to 15 additional bicycles to be put into the program.
- **Canine Unit - NOT INCLUDED IN THIS RESOLUTION** **\$10,000**
 Funding will provide food, medical care and boarding for three drug-interdiction canines.
- **Cameras for Districts** **\$5,000**
 Funds will provide district commanders with 12 cameras, to be utilized by patrol officers responding to crime scenes.
- **Cellular Phones - NOT INCLUDED IN THIS RESOLUTION** **\$45,000**
- **Computer Upgrades** **\$151,360**
 Funds will be used for a variety of purposes, including new software, additional server memory and additional computers.
- **Digital Image Storage** **\$150,000**
 Funds will provide storage space for digital images for the 120-day retention period required by state law.
- **Harbor Patrol Equipment** **\$17,455**
 Funds will provide equipment and enhance safety for water emergencies.
- **Homicide Unit Equipment** **\$12,400**
 Funds will provide equipment at homicide scenes.
- **Laser Speed Boards for Districts** **\$56,700**
 Funds will be used to purchase 7 speed boards, one in each police district. Speed boards inform drivers of their actual speed.
- **Mounted Patrol - NOT INCLUDED IN THIS RESOLUTION** **\$112,000**
 This covers all costs associated with leasing 7 horses for the Mounted Patrol.
- **Summer Youth Program** **\$25,000**
 Funds will enable the Department to partner with several local non-profit organizations to run a youth activities program with anti-drug and anti-gang components. The participating agencies must qualify as eligible participants under the federal asset forfeiture regulations.
- **Renovation of Old District #3** **\$325,000**
 Renovation of the old District #3 station, at 4715 W. Vliet, will relieve overcrowding at other department locations. These funds will supplement the \$200,000 in 2008 capital funding.
- **Recruitment Expenses** **\$25,000**
 Funds will be used for recruitment efforts, including attending job fairs and traveling to schools.
- **Surveillance Equipment - ONLY \$20,000 INCLUDED IN RESOLUTION** **\$36,290**
 Funds will purchase equipment used by MPD to conduct covert investigations and safely obtain evidential photos and video footage.

- **TEU Supplies- NOT INCLUDED IN THIS RESOLUTION \$15,430**
Funds will be used to buy supplies and equipment for the Department's Tactical Enforcement Unit.
- **Throw Phone for Hostage Negotiators- NOT INCLUDED IN THIS RESOLUTION \$25,000**
One throw phone would replace the throw phone purchased through asset forfeiture in 2002.
- **Surveillance Vehicles \$57,600**
Funds will be used to purchase used cars for crime investigation and control surveillance purposes.

TOTAL AUTHORIZATION REQUESTED \$950,040

Fiscal Impact

1. Expenditures authorized by this resolution total \$950,040 from the Police Department's Federal Forfeiture Trust Fund. No City operating funds are included in this expenditure request. For comparison purposes, the 2007 Asset Forfeiture Plan called for expenditures totaling \$1,354,330.
2. As of April 7, 2008, the Asset Forfeiture account balance was \$1,005,607.

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