

LRB-FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

**JANUARY 10, 2001 AGENDA
FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**ITEM 14, FILE 001308
DR. MICHAEL BONDS**

This file transmits the Police Department's Annual Asset Forfeiture Spending Plan for fiscal year 2001. The plan lists 19 items at a total cost of \$381,800, not the \$382,300 requested.

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 adopted June 16, 1992, requires the Police Department to submit 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. The Police Department's \$150 million annual budget includes \$12 million for nonpersonnel purposes. Therefore, Forfeiture Funds can 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 Police 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.
3. The 1999 Plan approved by the Common Council in File 981203, adopted in December 1998, identified 28 specific items totaling \$731,100 in funding need.
4. In 2000, the Federal Asset Forfeiture Plan was \$604,995 to wholly or partially fund 34 items.

Discussion

1. The Police Department is requesting expenditure authority of \$382,300 (actual items are \$381,800 total) to wholly or partially fund items from the 2001 Plan as follows:

2001 ASSET FORFEITURE PLAN

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE FEES	\$10,000
TRAINING	\$50,000
STORAGE OF CONFISCATED AUTOS	\$2,000
MDT MAINTENANCE FEES	\$2,500
AVENUES WEST	\$17,000
CANINE UNITS	\$18,000
CAPITOL COURT - MOVING EXPENSES	\$10,000
CELLULAR PHONES	\$42,000
INVESTIGATIVE FUNDS	\$50,000
MOUNTED PATROL UNIT- LEASE	\$70,000
REPLACEMENT POLYGRAPH	\$11,000
RADIO REPAIR EQUIPMENT	\$6,000
AUDIO/VISUAL EQUIPMENT UPGRADES	\$9,000
COMPUTERS - INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS	\$12,800
COMPUTER UPGRADES	\$12,500
LARGE FORMAT PRINTER	\$11,000
LASER SPEED DETECTION UNITS	\$30,000
MISCELLANEOUS MOTORCYCLE ACCESSORIES	\$10,000
SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT	\$8,000
TOTAL	\$381,800

2. Included in this request is \$70,000 for the mounted patrol program, the same amount provided in 2000. In 1999, \$35,000 from the Federal Asset Forfeiture Trust Account was used for this purpose. Another \$30,000+ was raised from private contributions. In 2000, \$70,000 was requested for the mounted patrol because there were not any private contributions raised for this program, and there were some unexpected grooming costs. In addition, another \$8,000 was included for replacement equipment for the mounted patrol program in 2000.
3. This file also includes a request for \$10,000 to move the Capitol Court Background Unit to the Police Administration Building (PAB); \$18,000 for three drug-interdiction canines, and \$17,000 for Avenues West.
4. The file also includes four one-time items in the 2001 Plan: replacement polygraph (\$11,000), audio/visual upgrades (\$9,000), large format printer (\$11,000) and miscellaneous motorcycle accessories (\$10,000).
5. The 2001 Asset Forfeiture Plan of \$382,300 is less than the \$604,995 in the 2000 Plan. In 1999, the Asset Forfeiture Fund was \$731,000. This trend clearly shows a decline in this fund over the last several years from \$731,000 in 1999 to \$382,300 in 2001, a decrease of \$348,700 or -48%. The Committee might wish to have the department explain this significant decrease in funds over the last three years.
6. The 2000 Asset Forfeiture Balance was \$288,946 as of November 2000.

Fiscal Impact

1. None. These funds will be coming from the Asset Forfeiture Fund Trust Account.