

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

RE: 2002 Asset Forfeiture Plan

Dear Council Members:

Pursuant to Common Council File #920252, the Milwaukee Police Department submits an annual report on anticipated receipt of federally seized forfeiture funds for the next calendar year, together with a plan, including priorities for expenditure of such funds.

As of November 12, 2001 the Asset Forfeiture account balance was \$147,256.35. Cash receipts of the fund are subject to many variables, among them the uncertainty of whether the Department will receive funds, the exact share of any seized assets the Department will be awarded, and the effects of changes in the Federal guidelines for this program.

In order to enhance the safety of the community and enable the Police Department to increase its effectiveness and efficiency, this plan includes the following items. Historically, about half of the items presented in the plan are eventually funded, based on the needs of the Department throughout the coming fiscal year.

- 1. Administrative Fees **\$10,000****  
The U.S. Marshall'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. Training **\$50,000****  
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.
- 3. Storage of Confiscated Autos **\$2,000****  
Vehicles that are seized as part of an investigation must be properly and securely stored until a hearing examiner determines the final disposition of the case. Use of these funds provides the police with an investigative tool and serves as a key punitive measure against convicted drug dealers.

4. **MDT Maintenance Fees** **\$3,000**  
The fees are used to fund the remaining “first-generation” mobile data terminals that use the Milwaukee County radio infrastructure for access.
5. **Canine Units** **\$22,500**  
This funds the food, medical care and boarding for three drug-interdiction canines. Replacement of one canine is anticipated in 2002. Without funding, the Department will be less effective in drug interdiction and subsequently less successful in its attempts to secure federally seized forfeiture funds.
6. **Cellular Phones** **\$42,000**  
Asset Forfeiture has been critical to **funding cell phones, which are an increasingly important tool in community-oriented policing.**
7. **TEU Supplies** **\$3,000**  
The Department’s TEU unit conducts search warrants, which requires supplies and equipment to keep them safe in highly volatile and dangerous conditions. Supplies have been perennially funded from forfeitures, which are often directly related to this unit’s duties.
8. **Investigative Funds** **\$50,000**  
These funds enable detectives to obtain information and evidence they need to arrest and successfully prosecute drug dealers.
9. **Mounted Patrol Unit** **\$70,000**  
The cost of leasing five horses for the Mounted Patrol includes all resources employed by the local stable.
10. **Vehicles for Mounted Patrol Unit** **\$64,000**  
Funding would replace the 1985 Suburban and the surplus military vehicle currently used by the unit to pull the horse trailers. The suburban has in excess of 150,000 miles.
11. **Rifle Scopes** **\$11,000**  
This would replace 20 scopes used by the Tactical Enforcement Unit. The current scopes are 12 to 14 years old, and are in need of replacement with advanced optics currently available.
12. **Computer Network** **\$100,000**  
This item will serve as a source of emergency 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.
13. **Mobile Data Terminals (MDC’s)** **\$100,000**  
We anticipate a shortage of MDC’s for 2002 replacement squads. These funds will supplement grant and capital funding.
14. **Boat Motor Replacement** **\$10,000**

The Department is in need of a replacement engine for the 2002 season. The current engine has had a number of costly repairs in 2001, and now needs replacement.

**15. Laser Speed Detection Units** **\$78,000**

This will expand the number of laser units available for use by the motorcycle patrol officers.

**16. New Name Tags** **\$36,000**

The Department is experiencing problems with the reliability of the current name-tags. The Department would like to replace these nametags with a new version that includes the American flag.

**17. Miscellaneous Motorcycle Accessories** **\$10,000**

This item will help equip our patrol motorcycles with necessary safety equipment. For example, the addition of LED emergency lights will allow operation of the emergency lights with minimal battery draw while the engine is off. This increases officers' safety at prolonged traffic stops or accident scenes.

**18. Surveillance Equipment** **\$42,500**

This equipment enhances the Vice Control and Intelligence Divisions' ability to conduct covert investigations and safely obtain the necessary evidentiary photos and video footage.

**19. Vehicles and Related Equipment** **\$50,000**

These funds would be used to purchase vehicles used in undercover operations. The Department used Asset Forfeiture funds to purchase undercover vehicles in 1996, 1997, and 1999. The undercover fleet is aging rapidly. Unfortunately, the steady flow of vehicles seized under State and Federal statutes has dropped significantly.

**20. Facial Recognition Software** **\$90,000**

This is an upgrade to the Department's existing digital mugshot system. This upgrade system would allow the creation of a composite suspect image, which could be searched against the Department's digital mugshot files to identify possible suspects. This new technology is similar to capabilities being employed by the border patrol and other federal security agencies.

**21. Stereoscopic Vision for Bomb Robot** **\$5,000**

When in operation, this device provides the operator of the current bomb robot system the experience of normal depth perception, increasing the safety of its use and effectiveness.

This plan may be revised, pursuant to the provisions of Common Council File 920252, in the event of a change in the Department's needs or priorities.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR L. JONES  
CHIEF OF POLICE

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