



Police Department
December 8, 2008

Edward A. Flynn
Chief of Police

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

RE: 2009 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 that includes priorities for the expenditure of such funds.

As of November 15, 2008 the Asset Forfeiture account balance was \$1,169,742.41. 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, funding of these items has been based on the ever-changing needs of the Department through out the fiscal year.

- 1. Administrative Fees \$15,000**

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 the seizure of vehicles or other non-monetary property. Payment of these fees allows continued participation in this program.
- 2. Bicycle Patrol \$13,000**

The bicycle program augments the beat program and park and walk programs. The bicycle program allows police officers to have closer contact with the public, engage in crime control and prevention activities and yet have the capability of quickly responding to emergency calls for service in the assigned patrol areas. These funds will allow us to equip additional riders to perform bicycle patrol.
- 3. Canine Unit \$5,000**

This funds the food, medical care and boarding for three drug-interdiction canines. Without funding, the Department will be less effective in drug interdiction and subsequently less successful in its attempts to secure federally seized forfeiture funds.
- 4. Cellular Phones \$45,000**

These funds continue support for cellular telephones for field officers and investigative personnel assigned to field activities, permitting them to call citizens about service requests and investigations.

- 5. Computer Upgrades** **\$79,000**
These funds will be used for a variety of expenditures, among them replacement and upgrading of equipment so that our open records staff can respond more efficiently to open records requests for digital video output, software to enable the Id division to prepare court exhibits more efficiently, upload servers for the video cameras in the squads, and an on-line citizen incident reporting system. The expenditures are intended to make our officers more efficient and effective, increasing the time that they can spend on pro-active policing, and reducing time now utilized responding to service requests.
- 6. Crime Analysis Tools** **\$47,200**
The Department is committed to making the best use of the crime data available in our computer systems to detect crime trends, to identify hot spots and help with the deployment of scarce resources. In order to do this, the Department has identified the need for computers, printers, a server, and software, among other items.
- 7. EOC Internet and Cabling Upgrades** **\$25,400**
These funds will allow us to upgrade our Emergency Operations Center so that we can handle the data rich transmissions coming from new technologies that have been implemented in the last six years since the EOC was made operational.
- 8. Investigative Funds** **\$50,000**
This represents funds that are used in criminal investigations, including drug related cases. If these funds were not approved, we would potentially have to suspend or curtail certain types of criminal investigations.
- 9. Mounted Patrol Equipment** **\$38,275**
These funds provide for an additional vehicle and a horse trailer for the Mounted Patrol Unit. Increased demands for services citywide make it necessary to obtain this additional equipment.
- 10. Port Grant Match** **\$57,320**
The City of Milwaukee obtained both 2007 and 2008 port grants. The grants require a 25% match. The original source of the match is no longer available, and MPD will need to use asset forfeiture funding if it wants to purchase the items approved in the grant. These items are mainly for the dive team to use in underwater searches for explosive devices.
- 11. Property System Upgrades** **\$39,400**
These funds will be used to purchase an upgrade to the evidence property system that would enable personnel in our operating areas to do inventories on department computers, saving time and minimizing errors. There is a one-time licensing fee for this, which can be used on a limitless number of computers. The funds will also be used to purchase bar code scanners to increase efficiency by eliminating re-entry of data into the database.
- 12. Range Upgrades** **\$75,000**
These funds would be used to add enhancements to the range, the most important of which is 180-degree shooting scenarios. This makes the training more realistic for the officers because it more closely approximates actual situations. This increases both officer and citizen safety.
- 13. Renovation of Old District #3** **\$450,000**
The former District #3 building at 4715 W. Vliet has been unoccupied since 2003. The Department plans to renovate this building to relieve over crowding at other department locations. To date, the Department has obtained \$525,000 in funding (\$200,000 in 2008 capital funding and \$325,000 from Asset forfeiture) for the first floor renovations. The 2009 capital budget contains another \$550,000 in funding for the second floor. Currently, we are working with DPW to develop a plan for the remainder of the renovation. Once this study is complete, and the 2009 capital funds are released, the Department will move forward with additional renovations of this facility.

- 14. Surveillance Equipment** **\$30,975**
This equipment enhances the Department's ability to conduct covert investigations and safely obtain the necessary evidential photos and video footage. This equipment is especially valuable in investigating and dismantling mid and upper level drug traffickers
- 15. Tasers** **\$50,050**
In 2003, a pilot project for tasers was funded out of asset forfeiture in order to evaluate less-lethal force options. These funds will allow the Department to purchase approximately 50 additional units and accessories.
- 16. Technology Services** **\$450,000**
The department anticipates the need for additional funding in order to resolve information technology equipment and technical needs and complete various projects.
- 16. TEU Equipment** **\$20,225**
The Department's TEU unit conducts search warrants, which requires supplies and equipment to keep them safe in highly volatile and dangerous conditions. These funds will allow purchase of ballistic equipment.
- 17. Throw Phone for Hostage Negotiators** **\$30,000**
This throw phone would replace the throw phone purchased through asset forfeiture in 2002. The current phone has been heavily used, in part because of the switch from landline to cellular phones.
- 18. Training** **\$75,000**
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.

This plan may be revised, pursuant to the provisions of Common Council File No. 920252, in the event of a change in the Department's needs or priorities.

Sincerely,


EDWARD FLYNN
CHIEF OF POLICE

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