

2020 ASSET FORFEITURE REQUESTS

Milwaukee Police Department
Common Council File #920252

Asset Forfeiture Overview

- Total Request: \$770,000
- Key themes:
 - ✓ Department Equipment
 - ✓ Community Engagement
 - ✓ Technology
 - ✓ Transparency

Asset Forfeiture Myths

- *All of the money is from small time drug busts: **False.*** Asset forfeiture is permitted in various types of crimes (e.g., drug trafficking, child pornography, money laundering), and often the federal drug investigations that result in asset forfeiture are large scale drug operations.
 - SOP 765.10(F): Must be at least \$5,000 for federal money seizures
- *The government is taking money from innocent people: **False.*** For crime-related asset forfeiture there must be a conviction and proof that the property was involved in criminal activity.
- *The police can spend it anything they want: **False.*** There are strict regulations (for both state and federal asset forfeitures) and all spending is subject to an audit.
- *There have been considerable changes to the SOP: **Pending.*** While several proposed changes have been made before an FPC committee over the past two years (e.g., increase min. seizure amount, remove reference to state asset forfeiture, add reporting requirements, etc.), those changes have not been approved by the full FPC.

2020 Asset Forfeiture Requests

September 9, 2020

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

RE: 2020 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.

The Federal Asset Forfeiture account balance is approximately \$2,122,273.13. 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 throughout the fiscal year.

1. Department Equipment \$95,000
This category accounts for various equipment specific to the patrol, criminal investigation and administrative bureaus' equipment needs. It includes automated external defibrillators, a property transport van, helmets, uniforms, equipment repair, a digital scale and a power washer.

2. Neighborhood Initiatives \$85,000
This money will be used toward neighborhood initiatives divided among the seven police districts. The neighborhood initiative expenditures were derived from feedback provided by the citizens and alderpersons in those neighborhoods based on items that are permissible under federal asset forfeiture regulations. Requests include: backpacks, bicycles (adult and youth), interpretation services, sports cards, school supplies, meeting equipment and video cameras. In addition, \$50,000 will be allocated to fund public initiatives related to the Department's ReWaukee Project.

3. MKE Urban Stables \$145,000
This money will be used to support the new MKE Urban Stables, which opened in 2020. Funded expenses include technology costs and monthly rent for a year. The MKE Urban Stables house the Department's Mounted Patrol. The Mounted Patrol provides a highly visible police presence at large crowd events. They provide crowd management, or crowd control when required, at outdoor festivities, concerts, gatherings, sporting, and special events. The Mounted Patrol also provides public education and community service programs for schools and community groups.

4. Office Supplies \$25,000
This money will be used to purchase various office supplies, including filing cabinets, desks and desk chairs for various districts and units throughout the Department.

5. Technology \$150,000
This money will be used to support the various technological needs of the Department. This includes technology for the Department's radio system, a device to obtain voluntarily provided cell phone data from human trafficking victims, docking equipment for computers, SQL training, 3D mapping systems for forensics, cameras, phone headsets, high tech hard drives, and CD/DVD copiers.

6. Traffic Enforcement \$15,000
Provides funding for various traffic enforcement tools, including a speed board and trailer, tint meter, jumper cables and portable breathalyzer.

7. Civil Unrest Transparency \$205,000
In response to the civil unrest, the Department committed to obtaining an after action report that would be publicly released upon completion. It also committed to hiring an outside use of force expert to review an incident at 6th and McKinley. This money will fund both of those projected costs.

8. Administrative and Miscellaneous Expenses for Command \$50,000
This category accounts for on-going various small dollar purchases for each Command in addition to expenses incurred in the seizure of vehicles or other non-monetary property. 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.

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,


MICHAEL J. BRUNSON
ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE

Department Equipment

- **Item:** Various general equipment
- **Cost:** \$95,000
- **Explanation:** Various requests for department equipment, including automated external defibrillators, a property transport van, helmets, uniforms, equipment repair, a digital scale and a power washer.



Neighborhood Initiatives

- **Item:** Neighborhood initiatives
- **Cost:** \$85,000
- **Explanation:** Each of the seven districts created expenditures derived from feedback provided by the citizens and alders in those neighborhoods. Requests include: backpacks, bicycles (adult and youth), speed boards, interpretation services, sports cards, school supplies, meeting equipment and video cameras. In addition, \$50,000 will be allocated to fund community based initiatives related to the Department's ReWaukee Project.



DISTRICT ONE

- Video camera system

DISTRICT TWO

- Kids' handouts (stickers, coloring books, bracelets, fliers)
- Interpretation Services at Crime & Safety Meetings
- Backdrop for community meetings

DISTRICT THREE

- Speed Board

DISTRICT FOUR

- Speed Board

DISTRICT FIVE

- Bicycles (2 kids and 2 adults)
- Backpacks (100)
- A/V equipment for Crime & Safety Meetings
- Thank you cards
- Kids' "Police Hats" (40)

DISTRICT SIX (in priority order)

- Pole camera
- Packer cards (1,000)
- Drug and/or gang accredited speaker
- Badge stickers (1,000)
- Signage (e.g. Neighborhood Watch....)
- Monetary support for community based non-profit
- Achievement certificates (100)
- Meeting equipment

DISTRICT SEVEN

- Alley surveillance camera
- Speed Board
- Monetary support for community based non-profit
- Backpacks (40)

MKE Urban Stables

- **Item:** Rent and technology for stables
- **Cost:** \$145,000
- **Explanation:** One year rent for the new MKE Urban Stables, which opened in 2020. Also funds fiber optic cables at location. The stables not only support our Mounted Patrol, but they provide public education and community service programs for schools and community groups.



Office Supplies

- **Item:** Office supplies
- **Cost:** \$25,000
- **Explanation:** Covers filing cabinets, desks and desk chairs for various districts and work areas throughout the Department.



Technology

- **Item:** General technology needs
- **Cost:** \$150,000
- **Explanation:** Radio system (installation and replacement costs), a device to obtain voluntarily provided cell phone data from human trafficking victims, docking equipment for computers, SQL training, 3D mapping systems for forensics, cameras, phone headsets, high tech hard drives, and CD/DVD copiers.



Traffic Enforcement

- **Item:** Equipment for traffic enforcement
- **Cost:** \$15,000
- **Explanation:** Provides funding for various traffic enforcement tools, including a speed board and trailer, tint meter, jumper cables and portable breathalyzer. **Note:** 3 additional speed boards will be purchased under “Neighborhood Initiatives.” Additional funding will be provided through LexisNexis reports special purpose account.



Civil Unrest Transparency

- **Item:** Independent analysis related to civil unrest
- **Cost:** \$205,000
- **Explanation:** In response to the civil unrest, the Department committed to obtaining an after action report that would be publicly released upon completion (\$200,000). It also committed to hiring an outside use of force expert to review an incident at 6th and McKinley (\$5,000). This money will fund both of those projected costs.

Any Questions?