

LRB-FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

ITEM 12, FILE # 011363

FEBRUARY 6, 2002

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File # 011363 is a resolution relative to the Milwaukee Police Department's Asset Forfeiture Plan.

Background

1. This resolution amends the Milwaukee Police Department's (MPD) 2002 Asset Forfeiture Plan by placing the highest priority on the installation of video surveillance equipment capable of making a permanent video record in all police prisoner transportation vehicle.
2. The MPD 2002 Asset Forfeiture Plan, Common Council File # 011086, was placed on file by the Common Council on December 21, 2001.
3. The 2002 MPD Asset Forfeiture Plan included items for purchase totaling \$849,000.
4. The Asset Forfeiture Plan historically receives approximately \$300,000 per year and the amount received during the year is received at irregular intervals and varying amounts.

Discussion

1. MPD submits an annual plan for expenditures relative to, and contingent upon, the receipt of monies from federally forfeited tangible property or cash. These funds are to be used for increased or enhanced law enforcement efforts.
2. Asset forfeiture spending is used by MPD to fund continuing annual projects such as the canine and mounted patrol units, one-time purchases of equipment, training, administrative expenses and information technologies.
3. This resolution amends the 2002 Asset Forfeiture Plan by adding the purchase of video surveillance for installation in police prisoner transportation vehicles to the plan and making that item the highest priority for future asset forfeiture expenditures.
4. A Common Council resolution is required for the appropriation of monies for asset forfeiture plan expenditure.

Fiscal Impact

1. Expenditures from the Asset Forfeiture Fund do not have a fiscal impact upon the city.
2. Common Council File # 011086 gave approval for the expenditure of \$144,500 from the Asset Forfeiture account on December 21, 2001. An approximate balance of \$2,700 remains in the account upon disbursement of this approved spending.
3. No unit costs for video surveillance equipment have been obtained for MPD vehicles, specifically. However, an estimate based upon an average cost per unit from the experience of cities using this technology suggests that approximately \$4,000 per unit may be required.

Further Information

The Office of the City Attorney is reviewing the legal implications of this resolution relative to federal guidelines governing the use of asset forfeiture funds, the eligibility of asset forfeiture funds for video surveillance, and the authority of the Common Council in determining the use of asset forfeiture funds.

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