

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU FISCAL ANALYSIS

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

ITEM 10 FILE #061120

JANUARY 4, 2007

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File Number 061120 is a resolution authorizing the Milwaukee Police Department to accept and expend contributions it receives in the form of federally forfeited tangible property or cash. These contributions would be used for increased or enhanced law enforcement efforts.

Background

1. Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds come to the Police Department as a result of the Department's 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 Number 920252 requires the Police Department to present an annual Asset Forfeiture Expenditure Plan to the Common Council. The 2007 Asset Forfeiture Plan is presented in Communication File Number 061119 (item #9 on the Public Safety Committee agenda). The purpose of the Asset Forfeiture Plan is to ensure funding decisions provide for the most cost-effective use of these funds. Forfeiture Funds provide a significant level of "discretionary" spending power to the Police Department. A separate resolution (this file) is required for the expenditure of Asset Forfeiture funds. Once allocated, the 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.

Discussion

1. This resolution will authorize the use of Asset Forfeiture money to fund various items requested by the Milwaukee Police Department. MPD has submitted these items based on needs and priorities within the Department.
2. The Police Department requests that the following items and programs be funded with federally seized assets and forfeitures in 2007:
 - **Audio Visual Equipment** **\$26,350**
Funds will be used to upgrade AV systems in several training rooms at the Safety Academy and to convert training tapes from VHS to DVD format.
 - **Canine Unit** **\$10,000**
Funding will provide food, medical care and boarding for three drug-interdiction canines.
 - **Cellular Phones** **\$35,000**
 - **Computer Upgrades** **\$85,075**
Funds will be used for a variety of purposes, including new software, additional server memory and additional computers.
 - **Glock Replacement** **\$30,000**

This money will allow MPD to continue to replace weapons that were purchased in 1992 and are nearing the end of their useful lives.

- **Implementation of Computer Systems** **\$250,000**
Funding will be used to complete modules of the Record Management System (RMS), automated traffic reports and other computer systems purchased in the last several years.
- **Search Engine Fees** **\$8,220**
Funds pay user fees for computer-database search engines MPD uses in criminal investigations.
- **Crime Scene Investigation Unit** **\$50,500**
This will fund training of a new MPD unit dedicated solely to crime scene examination and processing.
- **Ethics Enforcement Unit** **\$15,000**
Funding will support training and equipment needed for an ethics enforcement unit that would conduct random and targeted audits of MPD members.
- **Investigative Funds** **\$50,000**
These funds are used for criminal investigations, including investigations of drug-related cases.
- **Mobile Data Computers (MDCs)** **\$155,500**
The Police Department purchased 356 MDCs in 2003. At this time, about 25% of these units are out of service and cannot be repaired. These funds will be used to purchase approximately 19 MDCs to fully equip police sergeant vehicles with this type of equipment. Funds will also pay for upgrading MDC software licenses.
- **Motorcycles** **\$44,000**
Funds will be used to replace the Department's remaining 2002 model-year motorcycles.
- **Mounted Patrol** **\$106,000**
This covers all costs associated with leasing seven horses for the Mounted Patrol.
- **Plotter** **\$20,000**
Funds will purchase a new plotter to replace 2 existing plotters in MPD's print shops. This plotter will be used for printing posters and indoor and outdoor signs for the Police Department, Fire Department, Mayor's Office, City Treasurer and Election Commission.
- **Sight for Rifles** **\$16,600**
These funds will be used to purchase a night vision system for rifles used by the Tactical Enforcement Unit.
- **Surveillance Equipment** **\$15,950**
Funds will purchase equipment used by MPD to conduct covert investigations and safely obtain evidential photos and video footage.
- **Tasers** **\$48,000**
Funding will allow MPD to purchase approximately 50 Tasers and related equipment.
- **TEU Supplies** **\$7,050**
Funds will be used to buy supplies and equipment for the Department's Tactical Enforcement Unit.
- **Training** **\$72,685**
These funds will be used for employee education and training in the following areas: narcotics detection and the investigation of drug-related activities; specialized training for evidence technicians; crystal report training for retrieval of statistical data; training in techniques for interviewing children under the new taped-interrogation requirement and procedure.

- **Vice Equipment Maintenance & Repair** **\$2,000**
Funds will support the repair and maintenance of surveillance equipment used by MPD's Vice Control Division.
- **Varda Alarms** **\$7,500**
This will fund the purchase of two new varda alarms, which are used in combating burglaries and armed robberies and in securing sensitive sites.
- **Vest Replacement** **\$51,000**
Funding will allow the Department to purchase approximately 100 new ballistic vests for police officers and will help the Department keep its vest replacement cycle at 5-6 years.

TOTAL \$1,106,430

Fiscal Impact

1. Expenditures authorized by this resolution total \$1,106,430. No City operating funds are included in this expenditure request. For comparison purposes, the 2006 Asset Forfeiture Plan called for expenditures totaling \$512,000.
2. As of November 29,2006, the Asset Forfeiture account balance was \$1,305,711. Thus, approval of this resolution and completion of all expenditures contained within it will leave approximately \$200,000 in the Asset Forfeiture Trust Account.

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