

January 8, 2009

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

RE: 2007 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 29, 2006 the Asset Forfeiture account balance was \$1,305,711.03. 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. Audio Visual Equipment \$26,350**

The audio visual at the training academy is in dire need of replacement. This facility is used for recruit training, in-service training and regional training center classes. In order to meet professional training standards and to provide up to date instruction, these funds will be used to upgrade the Av systems in several of the classrooms and convert from the current VHS to DVD format for training tapes.

**2. Canine Unit \$10,000**

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.

**3. Cellular Phones \$35,000**

Asset Forfeiture has been critical to funding cell phones, which are an increasingly important tool in community-oriented policing and criminal investigations.

- 4. Computer Upgrades** **\$85,075**  
These funds will be used for a variety of expenditures, among them software, server memory for the high tech unit, and additional computers.
- 5. Glock Replacement** **\$30,000**  
Funds will be used to continue replacing weapons that were purchased in 1992, and are reaching the end of their useful life.
- 6. Implementation of Computer systems** **\$250,000**  
Funds will be necessary to complete the modules of the Records Management System (RMS), automated traffic reports, and other systems purchased in the last several years. As MPD proceeds with implementation, we are finding that various data base conversions, system fine- tuning, and data retrieval for crime analysis and daily operations must be addressed to realize the full benefit of these systems for the City.
- 7. Search Engine Fees** **\$8,220**  
Search engines link together public records, publicly available records and proprietary records into a massive database that is a valuable investigative tool. Use of these systems increases our efficiency and effectiveness in criminal investigations.
- 8. Crime Scene Investigation Unit** **\$194,500**  
With the advent of DNA technology, greater opportunities exist for law enforcement agencies to solve crimes that would otherwise remain unsolved. Forming a unit dedicated solely to this enhanced crime scene examination and processing will increase felony clearances, as well as the arrest of offenders who might otherwise continue to commit crimes. Start- up equipment, vehicles, and training are essential for this new unit.
- 9. Ethics Enforcement Unit** **\$15,000**  
This funding is for an ethics enforcement unit that would conduct random and targeted audits of MPD members to ensure accountability and integrity within the department. Costs will consist of training and various equipment needed by the unit.
- 10. 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.
- 11. Mobile data computers** **\$155,500**  
The last purchase of mobile data computers was in 2003, when 356 were purchased. These units are constantly in use, and at this point 25% are out of service and can't be repaired. MPD will purchase approximately 19 units to fully equip the sergeant vehicles with this valuable tool. In addition, we will upgrade the software licenses in the MDC's, which is required for the rapid ID in the squads to work.

**12. Motorcycles** **\$44,000**

These funds will be used to replace the Department's remaining 2002 model year motorcycles. When the Federal government discontinued the Local Law Enforcement block Grants in 2005, we lost funds for replacement of approximately 6 motorcycles per year. In 2006, we have noticed increased repair costs because of the age of the motorcycles, and these purchases should help reverse this trend.

**13. Mounted Patrol** **\$106,000**

The cost of leasing seven horses for the Mounted Patrol includes all resources employed by the local stable.

**14. Plotter** **\$20,000**

This plotter is a key component of our graphics design in the print shop. It is used for posters, signage (indoors and outdoors) for the Police Department, Mayor's Office, City Treasurer, Election Commission and Fire Department. This will replace two old plotters that are nearly 10 years old and for which we are experiencing problems obtaining parts and service.

**15. Sight for Rifles** **\$16,600**

These funds will purchase a night vision system for rifles used by the Tactical Enforcement Unit.

**16. Surveillance Equipment** **\$15,950**

This equipment enhances the Department's ability to conduct covert investigations and safely obtain the necessary evidential photos and video footage. This equipment is particularly valuable in investigating and dismantling mid and upper level drug traffickers.

**17. Tasers** **\$58,400**

These funds will enable the Department to purchase approximately 50 tasers and related equipment in order to expand its taser program.

**18. TEU Supplies** **\$7,050**

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.

**19. Throw Phone for Hostage negotiators** **23,500**

With the proliferation of cellular communications, the hostage negotiators have relied more heavily on the throw phone as a means to communicate with barricaded suspects. The introduction of VOI phone systems as well as more phone carriers in our area has made establishing a dedicated line to communicate with a suspect more difficult. Our current throw phone is over five years old and has been in heavy use over the past year.

- 20. Training** **\$72,685**  
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. In 2007, we are also using these funds to provide specialized training for evidence technicians, crystal report training for retrieval of statistical data, interviewing techniques for children who are witnesses and/or victims and training for the recording of interviews and interrogations required by state statute in 2005.
- 21. Vice Equipment Maintenance & Repair** **\$2,000**  
The Vice Control Division does much of the work that results in drug arrests and asset forfeiture seizures. In order to do this, the Division has an inventory of surveillance equipment that needs repair in order to maintain its effectiveness and usefulness.
- 22. Varda Alarms** **\$7,500**  
Current varda alarms were purchased in the late 1980's and cannot be repaired. Varda alarms have been a consistent, viable investigative tool in combating burglaries and armed robberies. The varda alarm has also been effective in securing sensitive sites. We currently have 11 working alarms. This funding would allow us to purchase two alarms to use as replacements.
- 23. Vest Replacement** **\$51,000**  
The Department's operating resources used to replace officer ballistic vests are finite. The Department is striving to keep the vest replacement cycle at five to six years. These funds would allow us to purchase approximately 100 vests for our officers. The vests are crucial to ensure officer safety.
- 24. Wireless communications for motorcycles** **\$70,000**  
This communications system would greatly enhance the ability of our motorcycle officers to communicate in an efficient manner with one another. Officers would be able to keep better control of their motorcycles because both hands remain on the handlebars of the motorcycle.

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,

NANNETTE H. HEGERTY  
CHIEF OF POLICE

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