



Date: May 22, 2012
To: Thomas Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Theodore L. Voorhees, Deputy City Manager
From: Jose L. Lopez, Sr., Chief of Police
Subject: Use of Federal Asset Forfeiture and/or State Funds in an amount not to exceed \$120,000.00 to purchase equipment

Executive Summary:

The Police Department proposes to use Asset Forfeiture Funds to purchase the items listed below. The items will be used to upgrade or replace equipment in the Department to allow personnel to execute their daily responsibilities in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

1. Video Surveillance System	\$5,000.00
2. Wireless First Responder System	\$1,000.00
3. EO Tech Sighting Systems	\$12,000.00
4. Covert Surveillance Equipment	\$10,000.00
5. Police Canine	\$15,000.00
6. Honor Guard Uniforms	\$11,000.00
7. Choir Uniforms	\$1,000.00
8. Laptop Computers	\$3,000.00
9. Interview Room Video Recording Upgrade	\$7,000.00
10. Field Force Equipment	<u>\$55,000.00</u>
Total	\$120,000.00

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the use of Asset Forfeiture Funds in an amount not to exceed \$120,000.00 to make the above purchases.

Background:

Video Surveillance System: The Forensics Services Unit is a 24/7 operation and the unit operates in a building that currently has no video surveillance system. This system will have cameras inside the main work area and the Forensics Services Unit parking lot off of Broadway Street. This system is to monitor activity within and outside the building of those who have access to the laboratory on any given day and at any time. This system will also enable supervisors to monitor activity when not present in the lab, which would improve building security.

Wireless First Responder System: The Durham Police Department Hostage Negotiation Team is designed to respond to special threat situations and establish communication with the suspect through the implementation of specialized negotiating techniques and tactics. The Wireless First Responder Communications System is a tool designed to help ensure that the agency's message is heard loud and clear in virtually any general public address or high risk application. The system would allow the Crisis Negotiator to initiate immediate communications with a subject or multiple subjects involved in a standoff situation. Unlike a bullhorn, which discloses the location of the operator, the Crisis Negotiator can use this system's remote/wireless function to communicate while staying out of "harm's way" and under proper cover.

EO Tech Sighting Systems: The Durham Police Department will respond to high risk tactical situations with the Selective Enforcement Team, a unit that is specifically trained to perform tactical building entries and searches, serve high risk search and arrest warrants and to conduct other special tactical operations as required. The team currently uses the EO Tech 552 for the main sight system on their rifles. The current sights have been used since 2005 and have seen a good amount of wear and tear from operational usage. Repairs have been done on many of them and the Holographic sights are starting to dim with the use over time. The Selective Enforcement Team is requesting to upgrade their optics to the EO Tech EXPS3-0 sight, which is the product improved version of what they currently have. This product improved version still offers the same sight system package that is better constructed to meet the team's needs.

Covert Surveillance Equipment: Covert Surveillance equipment will be used in neighborhoods throughout the city where drug and gang complaints are prevalent. Improved and up-to-date equipment is needed for effective drug investigations and to enhance the Police Department's drug and gang reduction effort.

Police Canine: The Uniform Patrol Central District is requesting Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds in the amount of \$15,000 for purchasing a Canine Unit Police Service Dog and funding the Canine Replacement Emergency Fund. The Canine Unit Police Service Dogs and their handlers are a support service. They assist in searches, tracks as well as locate contraband and conduct article searches for missing items. There are currently no other funding sources available to purchase this necessary equipment.

Honor Guard Uniforms: The Durham Police Honor Guard is a sworn volunteer service unit under the command of the Community Service Bureau that performs honor services for fallen officers in the line of duty, retired officers and employees, and represents the Durham Police Department and the City of Durham at local, State, and Federal services. Because of the high profile position the Honor Guard members hold, special uniforms are designed and provided to each team member. The current uniforms are outdated and are in need of replacement to meet the standards of the organization.

Choir Uniforms: The Durham Police Choir is a volunteer unit under the command of the Community Service Bureau that comprised of both sworn and non-sworn department employees that represent the City of Durham and the Durham Police Department at local, State, and Federal services providing musical performances to enhance the service event. Because of the high profile position the choir members hold, a special uniformed look is required. With both sworn and civilian participants it is important to consider the safety of

the non-sworn members by not representing them as law enforcement officers. The current uniform for the choir is not a sufficient look and an updated, more professional look is needed.

Laptop Computers: The Durham Police Citizen Observer Patrol is a volunteer service under the command of the Community Service Bureau designed as a crime prevention resource to the citizens of Durham. Citizen volunteers participate in the program by providing patrol hours and community engagement to help reduce criminal activity in the City of Durham. COP members are required to produce monthly reports and intelligence submissions to the District Commanders and COP coordinator, as well as other administrative duties. Currently, COP Captains have to use their personal computers or handwritten documents to produce the information required monthly. COP personnel also have to use their personal electronic devices or personal meetings with commanders to determine the area of focus needed by the commander.

Interview Room Video Recording Upgrade: On March 1, 2008 the North Carolina General Assembly passed House Bill 15A-211 which requires Police Agencies to electronically record all custodial interrogations in its entirety. This is required in any Class A, B1, or B2 felony; and any Class C felony of rape, sex offense, or assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury.

Field Force Equipment: The Durham Police Department is training members of the High Enforcement Abatement Team (HEAT) and the Downtown Bike Unit to be able to properly respond to civil disorder and violent riot type situations. The specialized trained officers will be identified as a Field Force. The NC State Highway Patrol and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department have long standing implemented Field Force practices. A total of forty (40) officers will be trained and outfitted for safe and effective crowd management. The primary sources for training and tenets are from the North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission and the Department of Homeland Security, Center for Domestic Preparedness. The Federal Government courses offer its courses to city and state law enforcement agencies at no cost. The asset forfeiture request is for the equipment that is needed to outfit the members of the Field Force.

Issues/Analysis:

Video Surveillance System-\$5,000.00

The building that the Forensics Services Unit is in does not have a video surveillance system. There are times when the building is unoccupied and the installation of a video surveillance system would improve the buildings security and the unit's operations.

Wireless First Responder System-\$1,000.00

This system would allow the Crisis Negotiator to initiate immediate communications with a subject or multiple subjects in a high risk application. The remote/wireless function allows the Crisis Negotiator to stay out of "harm's way" allowing for a safe and effective operation.

EO Tech Sighting Systems-\$12,000.00

Many of the sighting systems that are assigned to the Selective Enforcement Team are more than seven years old. These systems require continuous maintenance due to their age and

wear and tear. When this maintenance is done the systems are out of service for a significant amount of time waiting for the repair. The team requires an up to date improved sighting system in order to conduct safe and effective operations.

Covert Surveillance Equipment-\$10,000.00

The Police Department receives citizen drug and gang complaints from locations throughout the City where conducting surveillance is extremely difficult. Drug dealers are becoming more sophisticated with their counter surveillance techniques. Improved and up-to-date surveillance equipment is necessary for successful drug and gang investigations.

Police Canine-\$15,000.00

The Police Department needs to staff its canine unit with nine dogs to maintain a proficient unit. As the dogs age, they need to retire and be replaced. We would use these funds for the costs associated with replacing the dogs.

Honor Guard Uniforms-\$11,000.00

The current uniforms for the Honor Guard team members have been passed down to new team members for years and no longer meet the standards for representing the City of Durham and the Durham Police Department. Because the Honor Guard is a completely voluntary unit, there is no fiscal budget set aside to address uniform and equipment needs.

Choir Uniforms-\$1,000.00

The choir has currently been outfitted with Durham Police Department uniform pants and blouse from the supply division. The uniform dress is not the most appealing standard to represent the City of Durham and the Durham Police Department. Because the choir is a completely voluntary unit, there is no fiscal budget set aside to address uniform needs.

Laptop Computers-\$3,000.00

Citizen Observer Patrol members are performing a very important function for the City of Durham and because the program was developed without a budget it has been difficult to provide important equipment in order to ensure the program is successful. Reporting and information exchange is important when evaluating the program. COP members have reported difficulty in communication of information throughout the duration of the program. The establishment of COP email addresses and the implementation of computers to the COP Captains should make communication and information exchange better.

Interview Room Video Recording Upgrade-\$7,000.00

The current system used by the Durham Police Department is approximately five years old and can hold recorded data for 12 days before it must be removed. Over the last several months we have experienced audio and recording difficulties which could jeopardize cases where the defendant has committed serious violent crimes. By upgrading our current system's software, storage capacity and audio capabilities; the Police Department will be able to store over 30 days worth of data and produce a quality video package for the District Attorney's Office to use during legal proceedings.

Field Force Equipment-\$55,000.00

Officers will be responding to riot type situations or violent disorder whether or not they are outfitted or receive specialized training. A properly outfitted and trained unit is much more likely to safely and effectively respond to violent chaos. The recommended equipment is

identical or similar to what the NC State Highway Patrol and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department uses to outfit their officers.

Alternatives:

There are currently no other funding sources available for the expenditures described above. The only other alternative would be not to fund these projects, which would have an adverse affect on the department's ability to conduct criminal investigations and safe and effective operations.

Financial impact:

Funding these projects will not affect the city's resources because the department will use its Federal and/or State Asset forfeiture Funds to make the proposed expenditures. The Department receives both State and Federal forfeitures from government agencies because of assets seized during drug arrests/investigations.

SDBE:

This is a request to use funds for the purposes indicated. The Purchasing Department will follow SDBE guidelines and proper procurement procedures in making the actual purchase.