



Department Source: Police

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: October 3, 2016

Re: Federal Forfeiture Funds Appropriation: Mobile Field Force Personal Protective Equipment

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$78,000 from the Asset Forfeiture Fund to Police Budget to purchase Mobile Field Force Personal Protective Equipment. This protective equipment is recommended for police officers to utilize in the event of a mass civil unrest disturbance. In 2016, an inventory of CPD's civil unrest equipment determined several of the items are not in good condition due to age and wear. Other needed equipment listed below was not in the inventory.

Discussion

After select CPD officers attended the Missouri State Highway Patrol's (MSHP) - Mobile Field Force (MFF) Training, in which all officers from around the state have obtained a foundational basis for these types of disturbances, a needs assessment was completed. The assessment indicated CPD was not adequately prepared to handle these types of incidents with their current equipment. These items have been determined as essential based on "best practices" by MFF staff and the MSHP.

Once these items are obtained, MFF-trained CPD personnel will begin training all sworn officers in the MFF curriculum and standards. These were adopted by the MSHP as a result of their post-Ferguson incident review. A "soft uniform" standard coupled with the minimum amount of protective equipment needed for the officer's safety has been recommended. This is a transition from the tactical look and militarized appearance that has been used in the past and has also been recommended by MFF staff. Policy and procedure will be updated and CPD will be equipped and trained to handle larger civil-unrest incidents.

The City of Columbia has had civil unrest incidents in the past and has had to respond for the safety of the community and to ensure that 1st Amendment rights were being respected as well as protected. Some of these incidents include the University of Missouri "Bid Day Bash" in 1990, the Neo-Nazi march in 2007, and visits from the Westboro Baptist Church in 2012.

The Columbia Police Department is requesting to use \$78,000 in Asset Forfeiture money to purchase Mobile Field Force Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). All of the equipment requested in this proposal was recommended by the United States Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Center for Domestic Preparedness' Field Force Operations. This federal agency sets the national standard for responding to issues of civil unrest. The equipment requested for our department include:



- 147 Air-Purifying Respirators, with filters and associated tools and equipment
- 50 Shin Guards (pairs)

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$78,000 increase to Patrol Operating budget, \$78,000 decrease to Federal Forfeitures revenue.

Long-Term Impact: No additional cost for years beyond two.

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Public Safety, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	None

Suggested Council Action

Should Council agree, staff recommends passage of the ordinance authorizing the appropriation of Federal Forfeiture Funds for the purchase of Mobile Field Force Personal Protective Equipment.