



Department Source: Police  
To: City Council  
From: City Manager & Staff  
Council Meeting Date: March 18, 2024  
Re: Asset Forfeiture

## Executive Summary

Council requested a report on the Federal Asset Forfeiture Program as it relates to the Columbia Police Department.

## Discussion

The Columbia Police Department (CPD) participates in multiple Federal Task Forces used to target criminals who prey on the vulnerable in our community. Officers assigned to these Federal Task Forces assist in federal investigations that sometimes result in the seizure of assets by the federal government that are used in the commission of crimes. The seizure of these assets is authorized by the U.S. Department of Justice's Asset Forfeiture Program. According to the Department of Justice's Guide to Equitable Sharing, these asset forfeitures are authorized to be shared with cooperating state and local law enforcement agencies through the Equitable Sharing Program. CPD receives Equitable Sharing Funds from the Departments of Justice and Treasury after a federal case has been adjudicated and the assets have been authorized for release according to Department of Justice rules.

Over the past ten years CPD has received the following disbursements from the federal government under the Equitable Sharing Program:

FY 2013	\$98,607.00
FY 2014	\$26,112.00
FY 2015	\$86,307.00
FY 2016	\$35,489.50
FY 2017	\$9,781.00
FY 2018	\$27,213.59
FY 2019	\$15,281.08
FY 2020	\$39,034.70
FY 2021	\$172,215.05
FY 2022	\$0
FY 2023	\$85,428.00

Over the past ten years CPD has utilized asset forfeiture funds for the following:

FY2013	Purchase of PowerDMS Software (used for policy and training)
	Purchase of items to equip a bait car to assist in auto theft crimes
	Purchase of SWAT communications headsets
	Purchase of SWAT Armored Rescue Vehicle (Bearcat)



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FY2014	Purchase of Netmotion security software Purchase of Simmunition guns for active shooter training Purchase of portable radios
FY2015	Purchase of flashlights Purchase of Patrol Vehicle and associated equipment Funded a consultant to conduct a staffing study for Patrol
FY2016	Funded a consultant to conduct a staffing study for Investigations
FY2017	Purchase of equipment for civil unrest training/response
FY2018	Purchase of K9 and kennel
FY2019	None
FY2020	None
FY2021	None
FY2022	None
FY2023	None

The CPD Command Staff has discussed various uses for these funds based on current needs, including: equipment upgrades/additions, marketing services to support recruiting plans, a training simulator, and technology to support efforts to deter/detect/investigate crime issues throughout the community, especially those that are violent in nature.

It is important to note what these funds can and cannot be utilized for per program rules:

Permissible uses include:

- Law Enforcement Investigations
- Law Enforcement Training
- Law Enforcement and Detention Facilities
- Law Enforcement Equipment
- Law Enforcement Travel and Transportation
- Law Enforcement Awards and Memorials
- Drug and Gang Education and Awareness Programs
- Matching Funds – for state/federal grants
- Transfers to Other Law Enforcement Agencies

Impermissible uses include:

- Salaries for positions exceeding one year
- Use by non-law enforcement personnel
- Payment of education-related costs
- Non-official government use
- Purchase of food or beverages
- Extravagant expenditures
- To replace or supplant the appropriated resources of the recipient

For additional information on the Federal Asset Forfeiture and Equitable Sharing programs please refer to the US Department of Justice & Department of Treasury Guide to Equitable Sharing attached to this report.



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## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: None

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### [Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Safe Community, 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
Manually enter dates in this format: MM/DD/YYYY. Use hard returns to get to the next line of action entry.	Councilperson Lovelady requested a report regarding asset forfeiture at CPD.

## Suggested Council Action

Informational Report