



Department Source: Police
To: City Council
From: City Manager & Staff
Council Meeting Date: August 19, 2024
Re: Asset Forfeiture

Executive Summary

Council requested a report on the Federal Asset Forfeiture Program and possible uses.

Discussion

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

FY2013	\$98,607.00
FY2014	\$26,112.00
FY2015	\$86,307.00
FY2016	\$35,489.50
FY2017	\$9,781.00
FY2018	\$27,213.59
FY2019	\$15,281.08
FY2020	\$39,034.70
FY2021	\$172,215.05
FY2022	\$0
FY2023	\$85,428.00
FY2024 YTD	\$17,051.69

CURRENT TOTAL BALACE (Justice Funds & Treasury Funds combined) = \$420,385.20

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)
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



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

FY2018	Purchase of K9 and kennel
FY2019	None
FY2020	None
FY2021	None
FY2022	None
FY2023	None
FY2024 YTD	None

The CPD Command Staff has discussed various uses for these funds based on current identified needs. One of the highest priorities we have identified is the purchase of a NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network) machine from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF). This machine gives CPD personnel the capability to capture and compare ballistic evidence to aid in solving and preventing violent crimes involving firearms. When shell casings or firearms are collected as evidence they can be entered into the NIBIN network for comparison. Currently this process takes several weeks or months to receive a response and several hours of staff time as well as shipping expenses just to get the evidence to a NIBIN processing location in Cedar Rapids, IA. By purchasing a NIBIN machine we will be able to process our own NIBIN cases in-house, which increases efficiency and shortens the turnaround time for crucial evidence needed to make a case in a crime involving a firearm. This directly relates to the City's goals for the Office of Community Violence and would aid in quicker identification and apprehension of violent offenders in our community, thus increasing overall safety. We would also act as a resource for other area law enforcement agencies by processing their evidence in the NIBIN system to aid them in solving crimes.

Another high priority is the creation and funding of a technology plan. The first phase of this plan would include body-worn cameras (BWC), in-car cameras, holster sensors that automatically activate the BWC when the officer's firearm is removed from the holster, auto-tagging of video evidence in the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, and live-viewing capabilities of BWC's. This plan would place all of these tools in the same operating platform, providing for a seamless integration of the technology. It also assists in increasing transparency by reducing the amount of human error that contributes to the loss or lack of video evidence of an event.

It is important to note what these funds can and cannot be utilized for per federal 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

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
	Not Applicable

Suggested Council Action

Informational Report