



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: September 20, 2011

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Investigative Division, Police Department

SUBJECT: Appropriation Of Asset Forfeiture Funds For The Purchase Of Equipment For Narcotic Enforcement, Armored Vehicle Cover, Communications Equipment And For The Council On Alcoholism And Drug Abuse

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Appropriate \$74,607 in the Fiscal Year 2012 Police Department Police Asset Forfeiture and Grants Fund from available asset forfeiture reserves (\$64,607) and an increase in budgeted revenues tied to a \$10,000 donation from the Santa Barbara Police Foundation for the purchase of four surveillance vehicles and related equipment in the amount of \$54,618, a custom cover for the Armored Response Vehicle (Bear Cat) in the amount of \$2,500, and communications equipment for hostage negotiations, called E.N.T. Call Box, in the amount of \$17,489;
- B. Appropriate \$4,700 in the Fiscal Year 2012 Police Department Police Asset Forfeiture and Grants Fund from available asset forfeiture reserves to pay the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse for the City of Santa Barbara's share of the cost for the "Kids Fight Drugs" Calendar Program for 2011; and
- C. Appropriate \$47,000 in the Police Department Police Asset Forfeiture and Grants Fund from available asset forfeiture reserves to pay to the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse for continued funding of the Criminal Justice Early Identification Specialist position.

DISCUSSION:

According to the California Attorney General's Annual Report on Asset Forfeiture, "The goal of asset forfeiture is to remove the profits from those that benefit from illegal drug trade." The report goes on to provide: "Asset forfeiture proceeds are used to fund education and drug abuse prevention programs." The law also permits law enforcement agencies to use the proceeds of forfeiture to purchase safe, more effective equipment that they otherwise could not afford. Based on this, the Police Department seeks to utilize

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currently available asset forfeiture funds to purchase necessary surveillance vehicles/ surveillance equipment for the Department's Narcotic Unit and a cover for the Bear Cat Armored Response Vehicle. The Police Department would also like to provide funds for the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to fund their "Kids Fight Drugs" Calendar Program and to fund the Criminal Justice Early Identification Specialist position.

Equipment Purchases

The detectives assigned to narcotics enforcement in the Investigative Division use surveillance vehicles on a daily basis in order to reduce the availability of narcotics in the City of Santa Barbara by working undercover surveillance. There are currently four detectives and one Sergeant assigned to the Narcotic Unit for the Police Department. The vehicles currently being driven have been used for approximately ten years. Their effectiveness has been diminished by the amount of years they have been in service. The undercover capabilities of our current vehicles have been exhausted since most of the criminal elements know the vehicles utilized. Acquiring newer more non-descript vehicles will bring back the undercover capabilities of the Narcotic Unit. The vehicles currently being used are in need of repair and the repair cost would exceed the value of the vehicles. The estimated cost of buying four newer surveillance vehicles is \$45,000, which also includes the cost of buying and installing police radios and tinting the windows in each of the vehicles.

Current surveillance vehicles have the following approximate mileage:

2002 Nissan 122,000 miles

1998 Toyota Corolla 72,000 miles

2001 Toyota 137,000 miles

1997 Mercury Tracer 82,000 miles

The Narcotic Unit is also in need of high quality surveillance equipment, including quality cameras. Staff recommends purchasing three cameras to be used by the narcotic detectives. There are currently no cameras assigned to the unit for high quality surveillance photographs. Estimated cost of three Canon EOS cameras is \$2,500.

In addition, the unit would like to purchase a GPS device to be used for surveillance. This device is physically attached to suspect vehicles and allows detectives to investigate and locate criminals more efficiently. The device has an estimated cost of \$7,118.

Currently, the Armored Response Vehicle is unprotected from the elements and at risk of losing some of its protective qualities (bullet proof glass deterioration). Covering the vehicle will also help keep its value and longevity. The estimated cost for the custom cover is approximately \$2,500.

The Crisis Negotiation Response Team and S.W.A.T. currently use a very dated and unreliable E.N.T call box system during critical incidents. This essential piece of equipment has become more of a liability than the reliable tool it is meant to be. The

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equipment has undergone several costly repairs over the years yet continues to break down during training and critical incidents. The new equipment has an estimated cost of \$17,489. The Santa Barbara Police Foundation has agreed to share the cost for this equipment by donating \$10,000 towards the purchase price. The Police Department's share from asset forfeiture reserves is \$7,489.

Payments to the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

The "Kids Fight Drugs" Calendar Program is an annual program sponsored by the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse as an educational measure to help curb drug abuse. The District Attorney's Office, in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA) and its Fighting Back Task Force, sponsored an anti-drug poster contest in the local schools. The Santa Barbara Police Department, Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office, and the District Attorney's Office agreed to continue sharing the cost of producing the anti-drug calendars. The Police Department's share is \$4,700.

Since 1993, the City has provided support for CADA's early identification diversion program, a partnership with the Santa Barbara Municipal Court and the Sobering Center. The City has an agreement with CADA to contribute annual funding of \$47,000 for a Criminal Justice Early Identification Specialist position. The position provides intervention and case management for individuals who have had more than five admissions to the Sobering Center within 12 months and who are identified as chronic habitual offenders. The Specialist meets with habitual offenders following release from jail or the Sobering Center and encourages them to seek treatment.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The City's General Budget is not affected by this request. The Police Asset Forfeiture and Grants Fund is a separate Special Revenue Fund. Asset forfeiture funds are regulated by the Health and Safety Code and cannot be mixed with the General Fund.

The Santa Barbara Police Foundation donation (\$10,000) will be used to help fund the purchase of the communications equipment for hostage negotiations.

PREPARED BY: Armando Martel, Police Captain

SUBMITTED BY: Camerino Sanchez, Chief of Police

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office