

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: PETER IGLESIAS
CITY MANAGER

DATE: JUNE 26, 2019

FROM: EDWARD J. HUDAK, JR.
CHIEF OF POLICE

SUBJECT:
FORFEITED ASSET FUND
REQUESTS

The Forfeited Asset Fund (FAF) consists of certain assets seized during the course of criminal investigations and the proceeds from the sale of certain forfeited assets distributed from both Federal Forfeited Asset Sharing and State Asset Forfeiture proceedings. These assets and proceeds may be expended for law enforcement purposes, but may not be used to meet normal operating expenses of the law enforcement agency.

Listed below are proposals seeking approval to expend State and Federal Forfeited Assets pursuant to the provisions of Florida State Statute 932.7055 and the Department of Justice "*Guide to Equitable Sharing for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies.*"

In order to proceed with this proposal, the Coral Gables Police Department ("CGPD") is requesting your approval of the following expenditure requests, which have already been reviewed, vetted, and approved by the Forfeited Asset Fund Committee.

STATE ASSET FORFEITURE FUNDS

As provided for in Florida State Statute 932.7055(5)(a), the proceeds and interest from assets forfeited as a result of criminal investigations shall be used for school resource officer, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, drug abuse education and prevention programs, or other law enforcement purposes.

No requests at this time.

FLORIDA CONTRABAND ACT FUNDS

Florida State Statute 932.7055(5)(c)(3) specifically directs local law enforcement agencies to expend or donate twenty-five percent (25%) of the proceeds from assets forfeited pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act for the support or operation of any drug treatment, drug abuse education, drug prevention, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, or school resource officer programs.

Accordingly, the Police Department has encumbered assets forfeited pursuant to the provisions of FSS 932.7055 under City Commission resolutions to be set aside for the support and operation of

those types of programs.

1. Explorer Post #594 (FY19)

Explorer Post #594 is a program facilitated by Coral Gables Police Department Youth Resource Unit officers and operates continuously throughout the year. The activities and programs of the Explorer Post #594 actively support the Police Department and the local community. In recent years, the program has averaged 20 participating members from local high schools.

The expenditures associated with the program include the cost of uniforms and equipment for both current and new participants; providing food and beverages during regular activities; and attending various training conferences throughout the year (i.e. weekly and monthly meetings, assisting with special events, assisting with Departmental training exercise, and community service projects). The activities and programs associated with Explorer Post #594 require \$12,550 in operational funds. Since a balance of \$1,088 in encumbered State Forfeited Assets remains from funds awarded to the program in the previous fiscal year, Explorer Post #594 requires an additional \$11,462 in operational funds for the 2018/2019 fiscal year. However, only \$6,500 in available funding is available to assist with the 2018-2019 fiscal year, which is the amount of funding being requested at this time.

The Coral Gables Police Department Youth Resource Unit was approved for purchasing cards during fiscal year 2016 to facilitate purchases associated with its community programs, including Explorer Post #594. As such, these operational funds will be expended primarily using City-issued purchasing cards.

Accordingly, a motion was made to the FAF Committee proposing an expenditure of \$6,500 from set aside State Forfeited Assets to support the 2018/2019 operations of the Explorer Post #594 program, which qualifies it as a permissible expenditure under FSS 932.7055(5)(c)(3).

FEDERAL ASSET FORFEITURE FUNDS

1. Mobile Command Post Vehicle

The Coral Gables Police Department has identified a need for a mobile command post, a vehicle that can be dispatched to any situation and utilized as a command center.

Mobile command post vehicles provide a mobile, on-site platform for command, control and communications during terrorist attacks, natural disasters, national events and other similar occurrences. These assets are deployed to enhance or reestablish communication and coordination during emergency incidents and special security events. This asset leverages satellite and Internet access, as well as interoperable radio and video capabilities to enhance communication between City of Coral Gables Public Safety departments and other local or federal response and support assets.

The cost to cover the acquisition of the mobile command post vehicle with the necessary equipment as evaluated by the Information Technology Department, Police Department Radio Shop Section and Specialized Enforcement Division is estimated to not exceed \$1.1 million.

IT Department Cost	\$165,000.00
Radio Shop Cost	\$179,000.00
Vehicle Cost	\$723,000.00
Estimated Total (rounded up)	\$1,100,000.00

The Automotive Division has projected minimal recurring expenses related to the maintenance of the vehicle after acquisition and implementation; those expenses will be absorbed by the Division’s annual budget. The Information Technology Department has projected approximately \$35,000 in recurring expenses related to licensing and software in the subsequent years after acquisition and implementation.

Upon approval by the City Commission, the Department will work with the Procurement Division to begin the solicitation process for the selection of a vendor that meets the specific needs identified by all the Departments involved. All purchases made will be pursuant to the City’s Procurement Code.

The “*Guide to Equitable Sharing for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies*” by the United States Department of Justice provides direction to local law enforcement agencies on the permissible uses of forfeited assets shared with local agencies as a result of a local agency’s participation in federal criminal investigations.

Per this guide, a permissible use of federally forfeited assets is the cost associated with law enforcement equipment.

Accordingly, a motion was made to the FAF Committee proposing an expenditure of \$1,100,000 in forfeited assets to fund the acquisition of a mobile command post vehicle.

2. Tactical Medic Program Equipment

The Coral Gables Police Department has identified the need for a Tactical Medic Program to provide immediate medical support capabilities to the Coral Gables SWAT Team during high-risk or life-threatening incidents requiring tactical assistance.

Tactical Medics are trained and sworn in as Auxiliary Police Officers for the Coral Gables Police Department, a secondary assignment to their primary position of Coral Gables Firefighter. Four Coral Gables Firefighters were selected as part of this program, and require the proper equipment to fulfill their responsibilities as a Tactical Medic.

The cost for equipment as quoted by Lou’s Police Distributors is estimated to not exceed \$28,000. There are no recurring costs anticipated after the initial purchase expenses, outside of standard replacement cycles.

Item	Qty	Item Cost	Total
Tactical Ballistic Vest	4	\$2,024.00	\$8,096.00
Rifle Plates	8	\$340.00	\$2,720.00
Ballistic Helmet	4	\$915.04	\$3,660.16
Communication Headset	4	\$725.00	\$2,900.00

Gas Mask	4	\$742.95	\$2,971.80
Eye Protection	4	\$80.00	\$320.00
Glock 34 Handgun	4	\$573.75	\$2,295.00
Uniforms	4	\$86.00	\$344.00
Tactical Boots	4	\$130.00	\$520.00
Squad Kit (Med Fanny Pack)	4	\$255.75	\$1,023.00
Medical Bags	2	\$1,252.00	\$2,504.00
Estimated Total (rounded up)			\$28,000.00

Lou's Police Distributors is an authorized vendor under the State of Florida Defense Products contract (46-000000-15-1), which has been approved by Procurement as an active City piggyback contract for equipment through September 30, 2021. Based on the total cost, with Commission approval, this quote is sufficient for purchase per the City's Procurement Code.

The "Guide to Equitable Sharing for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies" by the United States Department of Justice provides direction to local law enforcement agencies on the permissible uses of forfeited assets shared with local agencies as a result of a local agency's participation in federal criminal investigations.

Per this guide, a permissible use of federally forfeited assets is the cost associated with law enforcement equipment.

Accordingly, a motion was made to the FAF Committee proposing an expenditure of \$28,000 in forfeited assets to fund the acquisition of Tactical Medic Program equipment.

3. Sky Watch Retrofit

The Police Department has identified the need to upgrade its Sky Watch observation platform. The Sky Watch platform was purchased in 2006 using State FAF funds and its equipment has not been replaced or updated since its original purchase.

The Sky Watch elevated platform serves as a crime deterrent and surveillance unit. It is used for all special events held in the City of Coral Gables throughout the year. As a SWAT asset, it is used for officer safety and security for the public.

Technology has progressed since the initial purchase as well as normal usage and wear, resulting in the unit being in need of updates so that it can function at the highest efficiency. The work includes the following:

- Replace all lighting with high power LED lights;
- Upgrade PTZ HD infrared camera;
- Install 5 channel HD recorder with remote access capabilities;
- Insulate the unit's interior;
- Remove and treat all rusted areas; and
- Sand, seal and repaint the unit's exterior.

The cost to cover expenses associated with the retrofitting of the Sky Watch platform as quoted by

PRIDE Enterprises is estimated to not exceed \$32,000. This estimation covers all expenses, including delivery and pick-up from the repair facility.

PRIDE Enterprises is a governmental entity sponsored by the Department of Corrections. The expenses associated with this vendor are exempt from the Procurement Code per Section 6-607 (25).

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Per this guide, a permissible use of federally forfeited assets is the cost associated with law enforcement equipment.

Accordingly, a motion was made to the FAF Committee proposing an expenditure of \$32,000 in forfeited assets to fund the Sky Watch retrofit.

4. Mounted Patrol Program

The Coral Gables Police Department has identified the need for a Mounted Patrol Program, in which officers fulfill specific responsibilities on horseback. In particular, mounted patrols provide high visibility, crowd control, deter crime and can assist with community policing.

Advantageous features of this program include the officer having a more elevated view and situational awareness during events and amongst large crowds; being more effective in breaking up and dispersing unruly crowds; having better maneuverability in tighter areas; and being more successful in search and rescue operations.

The training associated with the officers and horses as part of this program offered free of charge, and the Department has been allowed to house the horses with another local agency. The costs associated with feeding and maintaining the horse, as well as needed equipment, are approximately \$12,500/year per horse.

The Department intends to acquire two horses as part of this pilot program; the cost to cover expenses for this program over a period of three years is estimated not to exceed \$75,000.

All purchases associated with this program will be made in compliance with the City’s Procurement Code.

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Per this guide, a permissible use of federally forfeited assets is the cost associated with law enforcement equipment and operations.

Accordingly, a motion was made to the FAF Committee proposing an expenditure of \$75,000 in forfeited assets to fund the Mounted Patrol Pilot Program.

5. BolaWrap Program – Expansion

In December 2018, the Police Department implemented the BolaWrap 100 model equipment as part of a pilot program to bridge the gap between physical restrained and less-lethal options available to Officers. During that initial deployment, 45 units with associated equipment were acquired and distributed to select supervisors. The Department has identified a need to expand the pilot program and acquire an additional 45 units with associated equipment.

Previous funding approved in FY16 has been exhausted and the funds have greatly benefitted Departmental personnel. As a result, a supplement is being requested to continue this enhancement and expansion of the pilot program. This expansion of the pilot program will be acquired at a cost not to exceed \$55,000.

Item	Qty / Rate	Total
BolaWrap 100	45 / \$800.00	\$36,000.00
Crimson Trace Green Laser Sight	45 / No Cost	\$0.00
BolaWrap 100 Cartridge – Blue – 40 Degree	450 / \$30.00	\$13,500.00
BolaWrap Holster – Thigh Rig Set, Black	45 / \$60.00	\$2,700.00
BolaWrap 100 Belt Clip	15 / \$12.00	\$180.00
Estimated Total (rounded up)		\$55,000.00

Wrap Technologies, Inc. is the sole vendor of the BolaWrap product. A sole source letter and Procurement authorization form will be provided for compliance with the City’s Procurement Code.

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Per this guide, a permissible use of federally forfeited assets is the cost associated with law enforcement equipment.

Accordingly, a motion was made to the FAF Committee proposing an expenditure of \$55,000 in forfeited assets to fund the purchase of additional BolaWrap equipment.