Clemson Police Department

Memo

To: **Clemson City Council**

Fr: Rick Cotton, City Administrator

Dt: August 30, 2016

Re: Asset Forfeiture Expense Request

Over the past couple of years our agency has been blessed to be a part of, and or, clear a narcotics incident individually both of which have dramatically increased our asset forfeiture account balance. Currently there is $226,680.19 in the available forfeited funds; with more than $41,460.00 awaiting a Judge's signature within the pending forfeiture account. Just last week our agency seized almost $4,000.00 that can be added to the pending balance.

There are some much needed expenses that are all approved expenditures from these funds. My ultimate goal is to maintain a reserve balance in the forfeited account of at least $100,000.00; these funds may be used in future budgets to purchase a vehicle or other equipment that may need to be replaced outside the bulk replacement years.

In the following paragraphs I will explain three (3) purchases that are needed as soon as possible and request your approval for these expenditures to be taken from the Narcotics Asset Forfeiture account.

(1) Mobile Radios (Walkie-Talkies) – currently there are four different models of hand-held radios being used by agency officers. Within the past two or three years the HT-1000 model radios began needing repairs and rightfully so – they were all between 20 and 25 years old. Motorola has finally decided to no longer repair or refurbish this model and have built a new, more up-to-date equivalent model. We started budgeting two years to replace portable radios by purchasing 3 to 4 per budget year.

Presently there is no consistency in the type of radio or radio operability due to the varied models in use. The purchase request is to buy thirty-five (35) portable radios (Motorola, Mdl. XPR 7550E) with lapel microphones. This is the replacement radio to the HT-1000 which we have had excellent use from. The total cost to purchase the radios and have them set up is $23,000.00

(2) Radio Repeater Replacement & Installation – this was actually submitted either last year or year before last within the Capital Improvement plan update. Our current repeater is beyond its life and is located on the roof of the Clemson House. As you are aware this location is to be demolished next year. Currently we experience periods when the power is either lost or cut to the Clemson House which in turn creates issues with the repeater. CUPD and CUFD have both removed and relocated their repeaters during the summer months from the Clemson House; ours is the only one presently still there. The radio repeater is the "heart" of all our communications from dispatch to car and car to car. We have had two digital maps completed for the location within the City to give us the best overall radio signal/coverage. The best location for the repeater to be located is on the Butler St. water tower. Ron Stewart stated he could do the prep work (concrete pad) and the cost should not exceed $300.00. A quote has been received for the purchase and installation of a new repeater to the Butler St. water tower utilizing certified tower climbers, which is required. A quote for the repeater under State Contract has been received at a cost of $20,000.00. Installation cost has been estimated at 10 to $15,000.00. It is estimated due to the requirement of having to use certified tower climbers for the installation of the antennae and cable. Benji McGill and I have been in communication about the relocation of the repeater; the water tank at Butler St. is structurally safe for this project. I am requesting an expenditure NOT TO EXCEED $40,000.00 to replace and install a new radio repeater: the not to exceed allows for anything that could arise during installation.

(3) Level III Tactical Gear – The Department's Tactical Team has been operating with both current department issued gear and gear handed down from our Army Reserve. It is my prayer this unit does not have to be utilized; or if so, does not have to face the dangers we have seen across our Nation. That being said, we desperately need to equip them with up to date and all alike armor protection. This purchase will give our tactical team members a tactical outer body armor vest; ballistic plates; and head gear. We can outfit our tactical team at a cost of $15,000.00 with equipment that will be sizeable and not individual specific.

The total request for expenditures from the Narcotics Forfeiture Fund is $78,000.00. The current balance is: $226,680.19. With the expenditures approved we would still have an on-hand balance of: $148,680.19 plus the pending balance to give a potential on-hand balance of: $190,140.19 +

Thank you for your consideration. Please keep in mind I only have two weeks to make the portable radio order and get the pricing we were given.