

Agenda Item Report



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

DATE: June 12, 2023
FROM: Sheriff's Office
RE: Equitable Sharing / Seized Asset Forfeiture Funds

General Description:

Transfer \$21,258 from the Contingency Fund to the Winnebago Sheriff's Office for the purchase of an evidence trailer and critical evidence supplies.

Action Requested:

Motion to approve the transfer of \$21,258 from contingency funds to the Sheriff's office and purchase of an evidence trailer and the necessary equipment with seized asset forfeiture funds. (new county board rule only requires committees approval)

Procedural Steps:

Committee of Jurisdiction: Judiciary	Meeting date: July 10, 2023
Action taken: _____	Vote: _____
Personnel & Finance	Meeting date: _____
Action taken: _____	Vote: _____

Background:

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office received 4 deposits between 11/22/2016 and 3/2/2018 for a combined total of \$21, 354.26 for our portion of seized asset forfeitures from the Department of Justice. These funds should have been carried over every year but were inadvertently not carried over and were recorded as a surplus into the unassigned general fund balance. The use of contingency funds will place these funds back in the Sheriff's Office where the revenue was received prior. The ability to receive funds locally drastically changed and we have not received funding since then hence the oversight. We became aware of the funds in February of 2023.

The detective's division has recognized a need that falls within the Equitable Sharing Program spending guidelines which state the funds shall be used by law enforcement agencies for law enforcement purposes only. The purchase of the Investigative Unit Evidence Trailer and supplies will not exceed the dollar amount originally dispersed to the sheriff's office.

Policy Discussion:

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office has conducted multiple complex multi-day investigations over the past five years that would have been greatly enhanced by the availability of a mobile evidence trailer. In 2018, a murder/suicide/arson scene was processed over multiple weeks in collaboration with

the Wisconsin Department of Justice. This scene in particular dealt with a number of investigative evidence collection issues and techniques.

In 2020, the double homicide in Omro was a multi-day investigation which required investigators to remain on scene for days at a time collecting evidence and processing the scene. These are just a couple of examples of when a centralized evidence processing trailer would have been extremely beneficial but there are many other practical applications such as larger seizures, high quantity burglaries and thefts as well as technically advanced scenes dealing with internet crimes against children.

This evidence trailer will also be multipurpose as it can serve as the use point for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Drone Team equipment. As this trailer will have adequate power and lighting, it is the ideal facility for mobile operations where the Drone Team is utilized.

1. **Secure Storage:** An evidence trailer offers secure storage for various types of evidence collected at crime scenes. It allows for organized and systematic storage of items, ensuring that they are protected from contamination, loss, or damage. The trailer can be equipped with locking mechanisms, surveillance systems, and climate control features to maintain the integrity of the evidence.
2. **Preservation of Chain of Custody:** Maintaining a proper chain of custody is crucial in the legal system. An evidence trailer provides a controlled environment where evidence can be securely stored, minimizing the risk of tampering or unauthorized access. This ensures that the evidence remains admissible in court and strengthens the integrity of the investigation. Moreover, the efficiency of being able to log and label evidence on scene saves hours of work after the scene is processed.
3. **Mobility and Accessibility:** Crime scenes can occur in various locations, including remote areas or densely populated urban centers. Having an evidence trailer allows the sheriff's office to bring essential equipment and resources directly to the crime scene. This reduces the time required to transport evidence back to the office, enabling investigators to begin processing and analyzing evidence promptly.
4. **Enhanced Efficiency:** By having an evidence trailer on-site, law enforcement officials can process evidence more efficiently. They can access necessary tools, equipment, and resources immediately, avoiding delays associated with returning to the office for supplies. This quickens the evidence collection and analysis process, enabling investigators to make timely decisions and progress the investigation faster.
5. **Versatility and Adaptability:** Evidence trailers can be customized to meet the specific needs of a sheriff's office. They can be equipped with workstations, examination tables, forensic equipment, and storage compartments tailored to the requirements of different types of investigations. This adaptability ensures that the sheriff's office has the necessary resources readily available, regardless of the nature of the crime scene.
6. **Collaboration and Communication:** In complex cases involving multiple agencies or specialized units, an evidence trailer can serve as a central hub for collaboration. It provides a designated space where investigators from different departments can work together, share information, and coordinate their efforts more effectively. This promotes seamless communication and enhances the overall investigative process.
7. **Public Perception and Transparency:** Investing in an evidence trailer demonstrates a commitment to professionalism, transparency, and the pursuit of justice. The public often expects law

enforcement agencies to employ the latest technology and best practices in their investigations. Utilizing an evidence trailer not only supports the integrity of the investigation but also showcases the agency's dedication to preserving evidence and conducting thorough, fair investigations.

Mirsberger Sales and Service custom trailer 7X16 aluminum 7k GVWR with electrical package \$17669.70

Inventory list:

Generator: Honda EU2200i 2200w 120V Portable Inverter Generator	\$1,250.00
Moveable Flood lights – <u>Uline</u> LED Work Light Model H-9276 Dual Head w/Tripod (2) @ \$140	\$280.00
120v Charging station (camera batteries, drone batteries, cellphones, flashlights) <u>Uline</u> Portable Power Station Model H-10122	\$400.00
Streamlight Stinger LED w/charger <u>Galls</u> FL622 (4) @ \$125	\$500.00
Woven Poly Tarp 16'x20' (2) @ \$18 <u>Uline</u>	\$36.00
Work table 60"x30" <u>Uline</u> Model H-2749FIH (2) @ \$110	\$220.00
Extension cords <u>Uline</u> Model S-16890 25' (2) @ \$30	\$60.00
Crime Scene tape <u>Sirchie</u> SKU: Barriertape (2) @ \$17	\$34.00
Evidence markers/tents <u>Sirchie</u> Mark-N-Doc Master Kit English SKU-MDK66E	\$150.00
Forensic Rod Kit <u>Sirchie</u> SKU- FRK16	\$80.00
Bungee cords 10 pack <u>Uline</u> Model H-3600 18" (2) @ \$12	\$24.00
Professional Tri-Pod <u>Sirchie</u> SKU- BM6009	\$85.00
 <u>Tools:</u>	
Dewalt ¼ In. Multi-Bit & Nut Driver Set – 70 Pc. <u>Fleet Farm</u> SKU 100620760	\$40.00
Dewalt Mechanics Tool Set – 168 Pc. <u>Fleet Farm</u> SKU 100620913	\$200.00
Storage Totes 15 Gallon <u>Fleet Farm</u> SKU 101477606 (6) @ \$10	\$60.00
Dewalt 20V Max Compact Drill/Driver <u>Fleet Farm</u> SKU 100771201	\$169.00

Grand Total: **\$21,258.00**