



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

November 2, 2015

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: Department of Probation - Equipment and Furniture Replacement
Utilizing Forfeiture Funds**

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Erie County Department of Probation requests authorization to appropriate available asset forfeiture funds for the purchase of replacement equipment. The Probation Department needs to replace twelve body armor bulletproof vests which are expiring, a broken non-repairable microfiche reader/printer, (5) Taser units, and a replacement of the conference table and chairs in the first floor conference room. These items are needed for efficient operation of the Probation department. These purchases will be made using federal seizure funds.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Brian McLaughlin at the Erie County Probation Department. Thank you for your immediate consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.", with the initials "DCE" written to the right.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

cc: Brian McLaughlin, Erie County Probation Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Probation Department
Re: Department of Probation - Equipment and Furniture Replacement Utilizing Forfeiture Funds
Date: November 2, 2015

SUMMARY

The attached resolution and accompanying memorandum is requesting authorization to appropriate available asset forfeiture funds for the purchase of twelve body armor units, (5) Taser units, a replacement for a broken repairable microfiche reader/printer, a conference table and ten chairs for the Probation Department's first floor conference room. This will address immediate needs for replacement of equipment and furniture in the operations of the Probation Department.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None. The County has available asset forfeiture funds which will be utilized to pay for this equipment.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Probation Department is mandated to make home visits in order to supervise probationers, including sex offenders, DWI offenders, and domestic violence cases. Probation Officers must wear body armor for home visits and when working in the field for their protection. The body armor is only certified for five years and must be replaced at expiration to ensure officer's safety.

The Probation Department officers carry weapons in performance their duties. Tasers are one of the weapons Probation Officers are trained to use. Currently five of the existing departmental Taser units have reached the end of their lifespan and need to be replaced.

The Probation Department records management includes thousands of microfiche records, which must be used for Pre-Sentence Investigations. The department's twenty year old microfiche reader/printer is broken and not repairable. The only option is replacement. The department also needs to replace the conference table with accompanying side table and (10) chairs in the first floor conference room. This furniture at least fourteen years old is heavily worn and replacement items are not available from surplus. This equipment is necessary for the efficient operation of the Probation Department, for officer safety and required compliance monitoring.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Asset forfeiture funds can only be used for law enforcement equipment, furniture, training, and other investigative or awareness programs as delineated as permissible uses in the Equitable Sharing guideline for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies. Currently the Probation Department has available resources in asset forfeiture funds. It will need to utilize \$11,100 to purchase twelve body armor units @ \$925 each, a microfiche reader/ printer at \$6,785, (5) Taser

replacement units at \$1,100 per unit which includes the holster, batteries, evidence download kit, cartridges, extended warranty for a cost of \$5,500, and a conference table with accompanying side table and ten chair at cost of \$4,050. The total cost of purchasing this equipment is \$27,435. The Probation Department has the funds available for these purchases in existing asset forfeiture funds.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Probation Department will continue to be hampered in the performance of its duties to safely supervise probationers via home visits, to obtain copies of microfiche records, to hold meetings in its first floor conference room, and to equip its officers with Taser units.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Probation will work with the Purchase department to purchase the equipment and furniture.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
PROBATION DEPARTMENT

RE: Department of Probation - Equipment and
Furniture Replacement Utilizing Forfeiture Funds

WHEREAS, the Probation Department is mandated to supervise Probationers through the use of home visits; and for officer safety is mandated to wear body armor in the field; and

WHEREAS, the Probation Department currently has twelve pieces of body armor expiring and must be replaced; and

WHEREAS, the Probation Department needs to replace (5) expired Taser units; and

WHEREAS, the Probation Department has a broken microfiche reader/ printer, which is no longer repairable; and

WHEREAS, the Probation Department also needs to replace the conference table and chairs in its first floor conference room; and

WHEREAS, the County has available asset forfeiture funds which can be used to purchase this needed equipment; and

WHEREAS, there is no impact on the existing 2015 Erie County Adopted Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature approves the appropriation of Asset Forfeiture Funds and authorizes the following budgetary transfers in the 2015 Budget of the Probation Department, cost center 1261010:

REVENUE	Increase
421550 Forfeiture Crime Proceeds	<u>\$27,435</u>
REVENUE TOTAL:	\$27,435

APPROPRIATION	Increase
561410 Lab and Technical Equipment	\$23,385
561420 Office Furniture	<u>\$ 4,050</u>
APPROPRIATION TOTAL:	\$27,435

and be it further

RESOLVED, that these expenditures meet the criteria established by the US Department of Justice for use of equitable shared funds; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive's . Office, the Division of Budget and Management, the County Comptroller, the County Attorney and the Probation Department care of Christina Schrader 1 Niagara Plaza.