



City of Somerville Police Department

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Charles Femino
Chief of Police

Supplemental information regarding the items 23-1262 and 23- 1263 on the 9/26/23 Finance Committee agenda:

Background Information:

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) applies directly to the federal government for Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Program funds on behalf of State and local agencies. EOPSS then disseminates funding to UASI Communities and administers oversight. These grants are based on submitted abstracts.

Boston's Office of Emergency Management administers programs for the Metro-Boston Homeland Security Region and is the designated repository for all funds received for the nine Massachusetts UASI communities. In Massachusetts, the UASI Metro Boston area is Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop. Somerville receives funds as part of Somerville's participation in the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region.

Funds are allocated to a UASI community based on submitted abstracts by UASI Jurisdiction Point of Contact (JPOC) members during monthly meetings. Lieutenant Tim Mitsakis is the Somerville Police Joint Point of Contact. SPD makes requests to expend available funds on a project-by-project basis.

In general, UASI funds are disbursed in two ways. One being via an award letter that municipalities request from Boston's Office of Emergency Management. The other option is to have Boston purchase a particular asset on behalf of a UASI community. The latter method is sometimes used when the particular asset(s) will be shared with other UASI partners. The advantage of having Boston purchase the equipment is that they assume the burden of the entire procurement process and the receiving community does not have to expend City funds and wait to be reimbursed.

Regarding item 23-1480 - That the Chief of Police provide a written explanation, and any accompanying documentation, of the Police Department's receipt of GrayKey surveillance Technology from Urban Area Homeland Security Initiative (UASI/Boston without requiring a grant acceptance from the City Council.

Background:

During October 2021, Sergeant Scott Whalen and Detective Pulli submitted an abstract for the Graykey software and 9 laptops for each UASI jurisdiction. The abstract was approved by the JPOCs during the April 2022 meeting. **(SEE ABSTRACT DESCRIPTION BELOW).**

A decision was made by Lt. Mitsakis to have Boston's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) acquire and distribute these items, so the Somerville Police Department would only receive 1 of the 9 laptops purchased. By utilizing this method, the Somerville Police Department did not have to bear the burden of the procurement process, purchase and take possession of all nine laptops, and then be responsible for the distribution of the laptops to the other Boston Metro Area UASI communities.

As stated, the City of Somerville did not have any costs associated with obtaining the one laptop and its accompanying software, nor any cost associated with annual license fees. The approval by the JPOCs was that SPD would house the software (hardware) and the annual license renewal would be paid by Boston.

In the present case, there were nine laptops that were being purchased, one for each of the UASI communities. Rather than having Somerville conduct the procurement process for all nine communities, it made more sense for Boston to purchase and distribute the laptops to the UASI communities. Somerville received one laptop and accompanying software.

Note:

The software for GrayKey was shipped to the department during the spring of 2023, but remains unopened. The Department did not take possession of the laptop. The laptop remains at the Boston Office of Emergency Management until such time that the City Council approves the request to host the GrayKey equipment as requested.

Abstract:

Project Title: Mobile Forensics Software

Submitted by: Scott Whalen - Somerville Police

Goal Area: Intel & Info Sharing

Proposed Cost 34,000

Abstract: The purchase of this mobile forensics software will help strengthen the regions ability to process cellular phones to further a myriad of investigations. Mobile phones are increasingly used to plan major crimes including terroristic activities. Law enforcement investigators are often hindered in their investigations of these crimes with locked and password protected devices. The use of Gray Key will allow the communities in the UASI region faster access to these devices under lawful access situations. During an investigation where there is an imminent threat, investigators need access to software programs like Gray Key to quickly gain access to locked mobile devices (with the proper legal authority).

This software will be hosted at the Somerville Police Department and made available to investigators from all of the UASI member agencies. We are requesting the purchase of a one-year license of Gray Key, a PC Desktop computer, 9 -4TB External Hard Drives, 9-256GB Thumb Drives, and 9 128 GB Thumb Drives.

Regional Nature: This software will be utilized by all 9 police departments in the UASI region

Regarding item 23-1263

Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$75,000.00 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department to support the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) sustainability and upgrades.

The Somerville Police Emergency Operations Center is located within the Somerville Police Department (Academy Room) and used during critical incidents or when a non-critical event requires a multi-disciplinary response. In addition to serving as an emergency operations center, this room serves as the department training academy for some mandated in-service training of all of its police officers. It also serves as a host site for other police agencies when the Community Outreach Help and Recovery (COHR) Department hosts its regional Crisis Intervention Training (CIT).

Much of the existing equipment required to operate the SPD emergency Operations Center and/or other training sessions is outdated and is in need of updates. The \$75,000 award letter before the Council will be used to upgrade the Somerville EOC. All funds must be used by June, 2025.

Initially, SPD expects to use the funds for two conference tables. These tables will not only work well in an emergency for round table discussions among EOC personnel, but will also be utilized for round table discussions during other trainings. The department will also submit a request for a new refrigerator to be placed in the EOC. Currently, there is no refrigerator for those using the EOC to place items in need for refrigeration.

The remaining balance from the grant must be spent down by June 2025.