



Shumeane Benford
Chief of Police

City of Somerville Police Department

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Date: March 5, 2026
To: Finance Committee
From: Chief Shumeane Benford, Somerville Police Department
RE: Memo on Items 25-0849 and 26-0169

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

The following information from the Somerville Police Department is being provided to the members of the Finance Committee in response to the above referenced items.

25-1446: Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$127,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for Special Response Team equipment and training.

The award of \$127,000 is intended to be used for the purchase of Special Response Team (SRT) equipment and overtime/backfill for training. The sustainment of this critical asset is necessary to ensure community safety and operational readiness when responding to some of our communities most dangerous incidents. These resources are vital for community safety for our city and region while availing valued city funds to be used for other priorities. Planned purchases of equipment include; pole camera and attachments, ballistic shields, radio communication accessories, and uniforms and replacement gear. The equipment is utilized for both Somerville SRT responses and to the region as mutual aid .

26-0169: Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$43,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for software.

The award of \$43,000 is intended to be used for the purchase of GrayKey software and the partial purchase of BlueVoice.

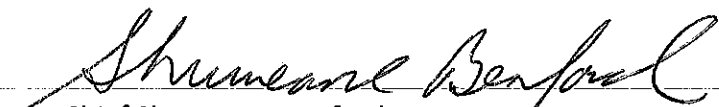
GrayKey is an investigative tool used primarily under the authority and direction of a search warrant which will articulate the scope and intensity of the search. The cost of GrayKey for one year is \$37,370 and will be paid for entirely by the grant award.

BlueVoice is a newer software for law enforcement, that allows officers to quickly search through legal, policy, and community resources for information. The total cost of BlueVoice will be \$25,000. \$5,650 will be funded by the grant, while the remaining amount will be funded by the police operating budget.

- This software is being used by other police departments in the region such as Cambridge, Brookline, Everett, Winthrop, Chelsea, and Quincy. Boston is currently piloting the software.
- Though, the software utilizes AI to search, it uses a closed system that only includes what has been uploaded into the program. The intended information that will be uploaded is publically available information such as state laws, municipal ordinances, and Somerville Police Department policies.

Please let the IGA team know if there are any further questions on any of the above information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shumeane Benford". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Chief Shumeane Benford