

Memorandum

To: City Council
From: Wayne D. Hudson, Chief of Police
Cc: David E. Weiss, Mayor
Matt Carroll, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: February 17, 2026
Re: Law Enforcement Trust Fund – Local (Fund No. 701) and Federal (Fund No. 702)

The Shaker Heights Police Department is seeking the City's authorization to spend funds to purchase items/services through the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund (Fund No. 702) and the Local Law Enforcement Trust Fund (Fund No. 701). The Shaker Heights Police Department (SHPD) is a professional, nationally accredited, and award-winning law enforcement agency. To maintain this status, the SHPD must add certain equipment, update other equipment, increase/enhance mission essential training, and continue to professionally engage the community.

Federal Law authorizes the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury to share federally forfeited property with participating state and local law enforcement agencies. Rules and regulations that govern the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund can be found in the March 2024 issue of U.S. Department of Justice/U.S. Department of the Treasury: **Guide to Equitable Sharing for State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies.**

On December 18th, 2014, then President Barack Obama, signed an Executive Order establishing the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. In May, 2015 the Task Force released their final report with recommendations. The recommendations consisted of several action items that were organized under six "pillars." The pillars are: Building Trust and Legitimacy, Policy and Oversight, Technology and Social Media, Community Policing and Crime Prevention, Training and Education, and Officer Wellness. The items/services that the SHPD are requesting are directly in line with the recommendations from the Task Force on 21st Century Policing. In June 2020, Mayor David Weiss signed off on the action steps outlined in the Obama Foundation Pledge. In addition, in 2024, the City of Shaker Heights conducted a Listening Project with the community. The results revealed the community wants more officers, more community engagement, and more traffic enforcement. Many items in this budget request are directly related to the requests of the Shaker Heights community.

The SHPD will follow all City of Shaker Heights procurement requirements to include formal public bid on items over \$50,000 unless the item(s) is on a government contract. The requested items and/or services will be used to increase the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the SHPD and make a greater impact on the community.

On February 5, 2026, Chief Hudson appeared before the Safety & Public Works Committee. This request passed with one dissention. The following questions were asked.

1. Are the items listed all new items?
 - o No. The ballistic vests request is a new request.



2. Did we receive these funds from money seizures from across the United States?
 - o No, the funds come from local money seizures.
3. Will the SHPD run out of these funds or are there more funds coming in?
 - o We will not drain the accounts. We do receive funds throughout the year, however the amount all depends on seizures made.
4. How is the Cellebrite data stored?
 - o The Cellebrite system is a software program that is installed on a standalone computer hard drive. The computer is located in a locked office with access limited to ONLY those that are certified on the system. The data that is legally removed from a cellphone is stored on the standalone computer hard drive that is not connected to the SHPD network. No data is shared with Cellebrite.

On February 17, 2026, Chief Hudson appeared before the Finance Committee. This request passed unanimously. The following questions were asked.

1. What is the retention policy for items removed from a cellphone utilizing the Cellebrite system?
 - o This will depend somewhat on the alleged crime.
2. Do the Cellebrite company have access to our evidence?
 - o No.
3. You mentioned that the IA Pro Software is designed to create the types of reports the Department of Justice recommends for Progressive Communities who desire to be transparent. Do the SHPD share this information with the DOJ?
 - o No. We use this software to create certain reports that can be shared on our website for transparency purposes.
4. In regards to Cellebrite, how is access gained into a cellphone in SHPD custody?
 - o Access is gained into a cellphone either through consent from the owner or by a court order.
5. How is the Virtra system working out?
 - o The SHPD utilizes the training machine for one week each month. The system allows officers to train on real-life situations in a controlled environment.

We request that Council approve this item and it be passed on first reading as an emergency so the SHPD can continue to utilize the software, continue to train SHPD personnel, and purchase the ballistic vests for sworn officers.

New or Re-new 2026 Projects

- Ballistic Vest Plates \$25,000
 - With the proliferation of high-powered rifles, officers are now responding to more incidents where these weapons are present. The funds will be used to purchase ballistic front plates that will stop a rifle round. Each officer would be outfitted with one front ballistic plate.

- Lexipol Yearly Maintenance \$26,000
 - Purchased in 2024, Lexipol offers daily training geared towards the region and also provides up-to-date policy reviews to make sure that the SHPD is on the cutting edge and in alignment with best practices in the field. There is a third-pronged component of officer wellness to this platform which assists with recruiting and retention of SHPD employees.

- Cellebrite Annual Subscription \$14,000
 - Purchased in 2024, the Cellebrite system allows detectives to quickly unlock and obtain information from cellular telephones. The technology saves detectives a lot of time and time is of the essence in these investigations.

- IA Pro Annual Maintenance \$12,000
 - Purchased in 2024, as part of the Fair Ticketing Initiative, The City of Shaker Heights agreed to share information about the SHPD Internal Affairs Accountability Systems. This software is designed to create the types of reports the Department of Justice recommends for Progressive Communities who desire to be transparent.

- Virtra Annual Maintenance \$11,677
 - Purchased in 2025, this technology allows officers to train in a virtual reality. This system allows officers to experience real world scenarios in a training environment. Officers can work on their verbal commands and de-escalation skills along with their safety tactics.

Law Enforcement Trust Federal– (Fund No. 702)

Requested Item/Service	One Time Cost	Annual Operating Cost
Ballistic Vest Plates	\$25,000	0
Lexipol Yearly Maintenance	Paid in 2025	\$26,010.50
Cellebrite Annual Subscription	Paid in 2025	\$14,050
IA Pro Annual Maintenance	Paid in 2025	\$7,500
Virtra Annual Maintenance	Paid in 2025	\$11,677
TOTAL	84,237.50	
CURRENT TOTAL (as of 1-29-26 per Finance)	\$152,303.31	
REMAINING BALANCE (after one time and annual operating cost)	\$68,065.81	

Law Enforcement Trust Fund – Local (Fund No. 701)

Application of the proceeds in the Local Law Enforcement Trust Fund is governed under Ohio Revised Code – 2981.13, which requires that expenditures from this account receive approval from the City’s legislative authority.

- SHPD Training and other Law Enforcement Matters \$50,000
 - To pay the cost to send officers to “train the trainer” courses in certain disciplines so that they can instruct SHPD officers and provide training to our community. Disciplines such as Verbal De-escalation, School Threat and Safety, Arrest- Search and Seizure, Anti-biased, Community Policing, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, Duty to Intervene, and other programs used to further build relationships and collaborations with those that live, work, and visit Shaker Heights.
 - To pay the costs of protracted or complex investigations or prosecutions;
 - To provide reasonable technical training or expertise;
 - To provide matching funds to obtain federal grants to aid law enforcement, in the support of Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) programs or other programs designed to educate adults or children with respect to the dangers associated with the use of drugs of abuse;

<u>Law Enforcement Trust – Local (Fund No. 701)</u>		
Requested Item/Service	One Time Cost	Annual Operating Cost
Basic and Advanced Training	\$40,000	0
TOTAL	\$50,000	0
CURRENT TOTAL (as of 12/31/25 per Finance)	\$80,421	
REMAINING BALANCE	\$30,421	

ORDINANCE NO.

BY:

Authorizing expenditures from the Local Law Enforcement Trust Fund (Fund No. 701) and the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund (Fund No. 702) pursuant to the City's procurement requirements under the City's Charter and Ordinances, and to comply with Ohio Revised Code Section 2981.13.

WHEREAS, the Shaker Heights Police Department (SHPD) is a professional, nationally accredited, and award winning law enforcement agency, and to maintain this status the SHPD must add certain equipment, update other equipment, increase and enhance mission-essential training, and continue to professionally engage the community; and

WHEREAS, federal law authorizes the Attorney General of the United States and the Secretary of the Treasury to share federally forfeited property with participating state and local law enforcement agencies, to be used as authorized by the rules and regulations that govern the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund, and the funds the City has received from federal forfeitures have been deposited into the City's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund (Fund No. 702); and

WHEREAS, Ohio law, in Chapter 2981 of the Ohio Revised Code, provides for forfeitures of property that are intended to provide economic disincentives and remedies to deter and offset the economic effect of criminal offenses "by seizing and forfeiting contraband, proceeds, and certain instrumentalities," and the proceeds from the disposal of such property have been deposited into the City's Local Law Enforcement Trust Fund (Fund No. 701); and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 2981.13 prescribes how funds derived from forfeitures may be used, and specifies that a local police department must adopt a written internal control policy for the use of forfeiture funds, and allows other uses as approved by the local legislative body; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has proposed a number of expenditures of the funds in both Trust Funds, including, but not limited to, ballistic vest plates, sound proofing interview rooms, scientific investigative unit improvements, license scanner, conference room projector, training room equipment, pole camera, public records tracking software, traffic/drug enforcement efforts, community engagement, virtual reality goggles, drone, training and other law enforcement matters; and

WHEREAS, in Ordinance No. 26-__, enacted on February 23, 2026, Council approved the overall appropriation of monies in the City's Federal and Local Trust Funds to pay for the proposed expenditures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Shaker Heights, State of Ohio:

Section 1. This Council hereby grants approval for the expenditure of funds in the Local Law Enforcement Trust Fund and Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund for the purposes outlined in this ordinance, and as permitted by the laws and regulations for each Trust Fund, subject to the implementation by the Police Department of the City's procurement requirements to make any such expenditure, such as informally obtaining quotes, formal competitive bidding, and requests for proposals for professional and other personal services, as applicable.

Section 2. This ordinance is hereby adopted as an administrative measure, implementing the requirements of ORC Section 2981.13 for authorizing expenditures of the City's Local Law Enforcement Trust Fund, and the rules and regulations for the use of funds from the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund, and thus this ordinance is not subject to referendum, and therefore this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its enactment and approval by the Mayor, or otherwise as set forth in Article IV, Section 3 of the City's Charter.

Enacted

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2026.

DAVID E. WEISS, Mayor

Attest:

MATTHEW P. CARROLL
Clerk of Council

coun26/0223LawEnforcementTrustFundAuthorization