

October 24, 1967

The Honorable Common Council
City-County Building
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Gentlemen:

In accordance with your direction, the following is provided as supplementary information for reconsideration of items deleted during previous deliberations:

Mobile Support Vans with Radio Equipment 4 @ \$6,000 \$ 24,000

This radio-equipped, mobile van would be pre-positioned and pre-equipped with extra ammunition, tear gas, drinking water and a variety of weaponry. It would be deployed to follow street forces and to provide an immediate means of supply and re-supply for these essential items. The vehicles would increase our ability to respond earlier and more effectively to a civil disturbance.

Prison Buses with Radios 2 @ \$26,000 52,000

These buses, like the support vans, will be pre-positioned to facilitate prisoner movement, particularly during the early moments of a disorder. On a day-to-day basis, they would be used in large raids or in any circumstance where mass arrests or police response is necessary. The D. S. R. cannot be expected to perform the functions that we foresee for these particular vehicles. It may be necessary, for example, to remove prisoners from areas where space is too confining for large buses. These buses will be smaller and more maneuverable so that they can operate in such an area. Another essential factor which should not be overlooked is that by using buses of this type in forward areas, the processing of prisoners can be accelerated. This would reduce the long periods of time during which officers on patrol are out of action because of processing.

Prisoner Processing Equipment

39 Polaroid Cameras for Identification of prisoners at precinct stations	@ \$150	5,850
30 IBM Dictating Systems	@ \$860	25,800

The identification of prisoners with respect to the arresting officer, location of arrest, and circumstances of arrest demands photographic and recording equipment. Identification cannot be insured by any other means. It is our intention to photograph prisoners with arresting officers and briefly record the details of the arrest. This system was used and proved effective. However, during July our detectives did not have sufficient stenographic assistance which greatly jeopardized the strength of court cases. Fortunately, dictating machines were loaned to this department by manufacturers. The requested equipment, coupled with revised procedures is expected to reduce delays in the processing of prisoners.

Armored Personnel Carriers	8 @ \$36,500	292,000
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The Police Department has operated since early 1946 with one armored vehicle acquired after World War II from the U. S. Army. This vehicle has been utilized on many occasions in non-riot situations, e. g. a barricaded gunman or a reserve show of force at mass demonstrations. During the past disorder, six (6) additional, more modern, armored vehicles were loaned to this department and did yeoman service in materially aiding to suppress this disorder. These vehicles were used to provide cover for officers entering areas heavily infested with snipers and, on at least two occasions, were instrumental in the evacuation of wounded people from areas which ordinary vehicles were unable to enter because of heavy sniper fire. Past experience also indicates that on several occasions the appearance of a task force headed by an armored vehicle very often served to disperse the crowd without the necessity for more violent action. This in itself would be an important use of armor. Our current training relies heavily on the use of the armored personnel carrier together with task forces to serve as highly trained mobile units for the apprehension of snipers.

Our projected concept of employment of the 8 vehicles is predicated on their placement in readily accessible areas for immediate displacement to any part of the city. This concept is based on the principle that the early appearance, at any disorder scene, of such a vehicle coupled with whatever personnel may be available could conceivably bring the disorder more rapidly under control by its mere presence. The particular vehicles that we have in mind are versatile

and offer some day to day uses. They can mount severe obstacles such as those caused by a natural disaster, and thus could reasonably be expected to serve as recon vehicles during such a crisis. The power of such a vehicle would permit its use in heavy snow, to restore traffic flow restricted because of abandoned vehicles which we experience almost every winter.

Finally, the recent violence has indicated that current police methods, equipment, and weapons are insufficient to cope with a disturbance of this magnitude. Thus, our current training concepts and procedures lean heavily upon the acquisition of this particular type of equipment. It should also be pointed out that the response time of the more heavily equipped military units of the National Guard would preclude the immediate deployment of armored personnel carriers in a task force concept. Hence, the ability to penetrate a danger area with sufficient numbers and proper weapons in order to enhance our early capability to exercise control would be lost.

50 Scout Cars, radio equipped @ \$3,200 each -- Total expense \$160,000

These additional police cars will be used to convert a portion of the motorcycle fleet which has limited usability to the more versatile four-door sedan. The need for additional vehicles was clearly established during the recent disorder, when it was necessary to borrow cars from other city departments and to place into service cars that were unmarked, unlicensed, and in some instances because of age, unsafe. Our normal operations will absorb these additional vehicles during peak periods when one man cars are used such a tactical units, specially deployed against certain types of crime.

In addition, we now know that vehicles must be available whenever we summon outside assistance during a disorder, i. e., National Guard and emergency police reserves. It is far more economical to "wall" a few vehicles during non-peak hours than to be totally unable to support a maximum operation due to a lack of vehicular capability. This applies both to normal operations or to a disorder.

1 Helicopter

50,000

The helicopter is an important part of modern police work. Its ability to hover has made it ideal for certain types of rescue missions and surveillance of crowds under conditions where this information is needed immediately by police and fire departments. It is extremely important to police and fire officials for initial evaluation of conditions vital to command and policy decisions. It has many other uses in such areas as intelligence gathering, rapid transportation of key personnel to forward areas, ability (under certain conditions) to dispense tear gas, traffic control, supply missions and the ability to participate in the identification and apprehension of wanted vehicles. The ability to perform such a broad spectrum of missions emphasizes more than anything else the need of this special equipment in Detroit police work.

One Monitoring Mobile Van

55,000

In order to determine if civilian-band radios are being used to direct rioting forces and, if so, be able to find the location of these transmitters, the mobile van would be necessary. This equipment would give us a mobile means of monitoring civilian bands and also the direction-finding equipment, necessary to determine the site from which such illicit broadcasts originate. This would serve also to protect the security and integrity of our own communications equipment as well as providing a valuable means of gaining intelligence and knowledge of the activities of the rioters.

Scrambling Equipment

50,000

This equipment scrambles radio messages in transmission to prevent their interception by unauthorized individuals. Experiences during the past disorder led us to believe that in some instances police radio messages broadcast in the clear were intercepted by those with whom we were involved. The easy accessibility to portable radios able to monitor police calls was evidenced by the ads for such equipment in Monday's newspaper. The advertised equipment can be purchased at a very low price. During the past disorder, a high percentage of snipers with whom our people were involved made good their escape. It is entirely possible that information as to the deployment of police units to the areas of sniper contact may have come to the sniper by monitoring our radio network. On other occasions, the coordinated fire experienced by our officers, sometimes simultaneously from three directions, indicated a strong possibility that such information may have been communicated via monitoring equipment, thus keeping the sniper up to date on the immediate deployment of forces in his area. This scrambling equipment is essential for our command channel presently being set up. It would give us the ability to direct specific units in specific actions without the possibility of our tactical dispositions being disclosed.

100 Four-Frequency Mobile Radio Receivers and Transmitters -- \$100,000.

Vehicular radio equipment is presently limited to use in a single district because of the fixed frequencies on which these radios operate. Rapid deployment and concentration of vehicles into a single district from other districts is thus frustrated due to the inability to receive the broadcast peculiar to the district to which they are sent. This limits the response time and the ability to fully utilize vehicles in the early stages of a disturbance when timely action is so important. These 100 radios, to be pre-positioned in each of our four districts, would be available for immediate commitment to any area of the city and would be completely functional and able to communicate upon arrival. Acquisition of this equipment would add immeasurably to a more efficient, timely response in the initial stage of any disturbance and would allow complete flexibility and interchange of vehicles throughout the districts in times of normal activities. The present, single-district equipment in use is 12 years old. Ultimately, we would hope to equip our entire fleet with these four-frequency radios for complete city-wide response.

Special Testing and Maintenance Equipment -- \$50,000.

Updating of our police emergency trailer to a four-district capability is essential. Currently, only three districts can be made operational. The tube type transceivers currently installed are now obsolete. To update the emergency trailer and to make it fully operational would cost approximately \$15,000.

Additional equipment for expanded PREP system -- \$20,000.

It is also necessary to add radio transmitter equipment to the Sixth Floor police communications center at Police Headquarters to serve as backup equipment in the event serious damage or destruction is experienced at either of our existing transmitter sites. (\$15,000)

125 Headsets at \$60 ea.

\$7,500.

This equipment is requested to provide sufficient headsets during an emergency. During such periods the department shifts from a 3-platoon to a 2-platoon operation which places demands on personnel and equipment far in excess of that normally experienced. For such operations we must expand the manning of the Sixth Floor Communications Center (which is normally our center of dispatch) plus adding two or more Field Command Posts and a highly sophisticated radio monitoring system. The latter is automatically installed at the Headquarters Command Post during a crisis to bring command officers as close to field situations as is possible. Meeting these requirements was a pressing problem during the last civil disturbance.

Emergency Headquarters Power \$ 100,000

An emergency power system is extremely vital in the event present power supplies fail. This auxiliary power must be capable of supporting police headquarters with sufficient power to run the communications center and all other vital operations. It will also enable the department to be self-sustaining in the event of major catastrophies.

Pumping Engines	15 @ \$40,000 ea.	600,000
Ladder Trucks	7 @ 66,000 ea.	462,000

The Detroit Fire Department does not have a reserve fleet of fire apparatus and this is an essential need, as evidenced by our experience in July.

At that time we found that subsequent to our call back of off-duty personnel we had many more able-bodied fighters than we had equipment to place them on. Two-thirds of our people are normally off duty at any given time. Consequently, our in-service equipment provides vehicles for only one-third of our fire fighting personnel. At the present time we are able to average two pumpers and one ladder truck in reserve and these are without equipment. Any time a first line vehicle is deadlined we must scavenge equipment from it to equip the reserve apparatus. Since reaction is so important it is imperative that our reserve fleet must be fully equipped and available for immediate service. The new equipment would allow us to place in reserve one piece of fire apparatus for every four in service.

Without going into detail our Civil Disturbance Plan calls for the development of these reserve vehicles at strategic command posts around the city. We feel that the acquisition of this much-needed major fire fighting equipment would allow modern equipment to be used for this necessary reserve purpose. The average age of the few pieces of reserve equipment on hand at present is 22 years. The requested equipment could also be used to fill in mutual aid agreements with suburban communities without curtailing fire protection within the City of Detroit.

Rescue Squad Vehicles	4 @ \$22,500 ea.	90,000
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The four rescue squad vehicles would alleviate the work load of our present seven squad companies. Our squad emergency runs have increased 56.6 percent during the last five years. In addition, these squads would be used as provided for in our Civil Disturbance Manual to facilitate the transportation of floating manpower pools, food and equipment during civil disturbances and natural disasters.

Monitor-equipped Jeeps 2 @ \$2,500 ea. \$5,000.

These two jeeps are to be monitor-equipped (water guns) to provide water curtailment in order to isolate and contain fires during disasters and at extra alarms during normal times. The jeeps also would allow us to move more hoses and tools into and around fire areas, expressway interchanges, the Fisher Expressway Bridge and the like. The vehicles would also enable fire fighters to divert heavy water streams to places where larger fire vehicles cannot travel. This equipment would give additional protection to business and industry against sales and production losses from fire and provide an urgent need for that additional protection to homeowners and businessmen who either cannot get fire insurance protection on their property or are forced to pay additional premiums for the same.

These revenues were lost to the general fund as a direct result of the riot. This means that cash which would have been available to pay for services in departments supported by general fund cash will not be available. This means services in this amount would have to be cut or other cash found to substitute for the loss. Our cash position is already so critical that we will be faced with borrowing on tax anticipation notes, as early as December, or holding back on payments of some of our legal obligations until the second half property taxes are received. Any borrowing on tax notes will have to be financed in the coming year and we will be hard pressed to meet the additional cost in one year. The emergency bonds will give us three years to amortize this loss.

Of the total interest cost of \$810,000 -- for the entire \$9,000,000 Emergency Bond Issue for three years, only \$73,000 would be saved if the \$1,726,000 in bonds to replace revenue losses were not approved. This is only nine percent (9%) of the total interest charges.

Your Honorable Body has previously indicated approval of \$5,135,000 of Emergency Bond. The total of the items itemized above is \$3,755,150. Therefore, we recommend approval of \$8,890,000 in Emergency Bonds in lieu of the \$9 million originally requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Police Commissioner

Executive Chief Fire Department

Controller