

PORT OF SEATTLE
MEMORANDUM

DATE: 04/22/2019
TO: Stephen Metruck, Executive Director
FROM: Rod Covey, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: New FTE Request – Puget Sound Auto Theft Task Force Detective

BACKGROUND:

Participate in the Puget Sound Auto Theft Task Force by contributing a full-time detective to the team beginning June 1, 2019.

JUSTIFICATION:

Washington State ranked #4 nationally in 2017 for auto thefts. Auto theft in the primary service area of the Puget Sound Auto Theft Task Force (PSATTF), King and Pierce County, declined 13% from 2016 to 2017. However, auto theft increased by 38% on Port property during the same time frame. From 2017 to 2018 we experienced a 54% increase in auto thefts. There were 164 motor vehicle thefts in 2018 from our properties, mostly from the Rental Car Facility and the Parking Garage. We know that many of the thefts are committed by the same suspects and criminal organizations. The PSATTF has the experience and resources to target these groups and has done so successfully in the past.

The Puget Sound Auto Theft Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional team dedicated to investigating and enforcing laws related to auto theft. The task force is funded each year by a grant from the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority which was signed into law by Governor Gregoire in 2007. The PSATTF objective is to provide enhanced and more efficient use of personnel, equipment, budgeted funds, and training to investigate and aid in the prosecution of prolific or organized auto theft crimes. Activities include conducting auto theft emphasis in targeted areas, coordinating statewide law enforcement training, investigating auto theft rings and ongoing crime prevention through public service awareness campaigns.

The agencies currently participating in the task force are the Washington State Patrol, Pierce County Sheriff's Office, King County Prosecutor's Office, and the municipalities of Auburn, Bonney Lake, Federal Way, Lakewood, Tacoma and Tukwila. The Port of Seattle Police Department would like to join the task force with the objective of reducing auto thefts on our properties and regionally.

The PSATTF presently has two vacancies for which we are invited to compete once we become signers on the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement. The expectation is that the detective remains on the task force for a minimum of three years. We would plan on keeping a detective on the team as long as the task force is funded and it is operationally beneficial to do so.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1) Do not join the PSATTF and continue to investigate auto thefts with current resources.
- 2) Fill both current vacancies on the PSATTF with one sergeant and one detective. This is not recommended at this time due to the need of providing two vehicles as well as the time to backfill.

BUDGET REQUEST:

The WATPA grant reimburses salaries and benefits, pays for equipment, training and associated expenses. The Port of Seattle would need to provide a vehicle for the detective.

The cost breakdowns for the new position in the first two years are as follows:

	Payroll Expense	Non-Payroll Expense	Total Cost	Charge to Capital	Total O&M Expense
Year 1 (2019)	\$108,000	\$21,000	\$129,000	\$0	\$129,000
Year 2 (2020)	\$190,550	\$15,000	\$205,550	\$0	\$205,550

The 2019 salary, overtime and benefits beginning June 1 for one detective is approximately \$135,000. First year non-payroll expenses include the cost for a new officer's protective equipment, uniforms, training and firearms at \$15,000 as well as leasing a detective vehicle for \$6,000. We would select an officer from our current staff and backfill with a new hire.

The 2020 payroll expense is inflated by 3% for the detective. Ongoing department supplies and vehicle lease is approximately \$15,000. Cost for one detective for 2020 is \$205,550.

Payroll expenses will be reimbursed from the WATPA grant.

The Port of Seattle non-reimbursed expenditures equal \$27,000 in 2019 and ongoing non-payroll expenses of \$15,000 per year with inflation thereafter.

Attachments: PSATTF Interlocal Cooperative Agreement

Approved by:

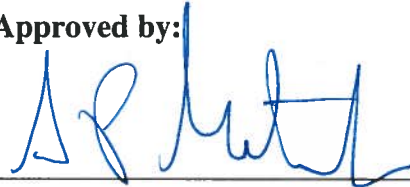


Dave Soike
Chief Operating Officer

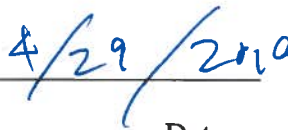


Date

Approved by:



Stephen P. Metruck
Executive Director



Date

Instructions:

- (1) Get the approval from your department head and the signature from your ELT leader.
- (2) Get the approval signature from the Executive Director.
- (3) After obtaining all the appropriate signatures, send an approved copy to the following staff:
Human Resources: Kimberley DesMarais
Finance & Budget: Michael Tong