

**CITY OF BELLE SLE, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

Meeting Date: July 21, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: Chief of Police Travis Grimm

Subject: Approval of Deposit and Appropriation of Law Enforcement Trust Fund
Proceeds Pursuant to Section 932.7055, Florida Statutes

Background:

The Belle Isle Police Department seized **\$40,754.00** during a criminal investigation. A dispute subsequently arose regarding ownership of the seized funds and whether they were subject to forfeiture under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act.

To resolve the matter without further litigation, the parties entered into a Settlement Agreement under which the City agreed to return **\$20,000.00** to the claimant in full settlement of all claims. In exchange, the claimant waived any further claims to the remaining seized funds, waived any defenses to the forfeiture proceedings, and released the City and the Belle Isle Police Department from any further liability arising out of the matter. As a result of the settlement, the remaining \$20,754.00 constitutes forfeiture proceeds retained by the City and currently remains in the custody of the Belle Isle Police Department pending deposit into the City's Law Enforcement Trust Fund.

Pursuant to **Section 932.7055, Florida Statutes**, forfeiture proceeds retained by a municipal law enforcement agency must be deposited into the City's Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Expenditures from the Trust Fund require appropriation by the governing body following the Chief of Police's written request and certification. Trust Fund monies may be expended only for authorized law enforcement purposes and may not be used to meet the normal operating expenses of the Police Department.

Staff Recommendation and Council Discussion Points:

Approve the Chief of Police's written request and certification; authorize the deposit of **\$20,754.00** into the City's Law Enforcement Trust Fund; and appropriate those funds, pursuant to Section 932.7055, Florida Statutes, for authorized law enforcement purposes, including law enforcement training and equipment.

Discussion Points:

- The Belle Isle Police Department seized **\$40,754.00** during a criminal investigation. A subsequent dispute regarding ownership of the funds was resolved through a negotiated Settlement Agreement. Under the settlement, the City will return **\$20,000.00** to the claimant, and the remaining **\$20,754.00** will be retained by the City as forfeiture proceeds.
- The **\$20,754.00** currently remains in Police Department evidence pending Council action.

- Pursuant to **Section 932.7055, Florida Statutes**, forfeiture proceeds retained by a municipal law enforcement agency are to be deposited into the City's Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Expenditures from the Trust Fund require a written request and certification from the Chief of Police and appropriation by the governing body.
- The Chief of Police has submitted the required written certification requesting the appropriation of these funds in accordance with Section 932.7055, Florida Statutes.
- The requested appropriation is for **authorized law enforcement purposes**, including law enforcement training and equipment, as permitted by Section 932.7055, Florida Statutes.
- The Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act prohibits the use of Law Enforcement Trust Fund monies for the normal operating expenses of the Police Department. These funds will be maintained and expended only for authorized law enforcement purposes in accordance with state law.
- Approval of this item authorizes the deposit of the forfeiture proceeds into the City's Law Enforcement Trust Fund and appropriates those funds for future authorized law enforcement expenditures consistent with the Chief's certification and Section 932.7055, Florida Statutes.

Suggested Motion:

“I move to approve the Chief of Police's written request and certification, authorize the deposit of \$20,754.00 into the City's Law Enforcement Trust Fund, and appropriate those funds, pursuant to Section 932.7055, Florida Statutes, for authorized law enforcement purposes, including law enforcement training and equipment.”

Alternatives: N/A

Fiscal Impact:

Deposit and appropriation of \$20,754.00 into and from the City's Law Enforcement Trust Fund for authorized law enforcement purposes.

Attachments:

- Settlement Agreement.
- Chief of Police Request and Certification pursuant to Section 932.7055(5), Florida Statutes.
- Section 932.7055, Florida Statutes.