

## Mounted Unit Budget FY 2008-2009

Cost is based on a 5-horse unit with 3 full time riders, 1 part time rider/instructor,  
And 1 part time rider/supervisor.

<b>4120 Contractual Services</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,568</b>
Stable / Boarding	Victory Sport Horses	\$27,000.00
Veterinarian	Reg. visits every 4 months	\$3,368
Vet Emergency	As needed	\$3,000
Farrier	\$35 per horse per trim	\$3,200
<b>3010 Materials / Supplies</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,260</b>
Hay (alfalfa)	C - Avg \$400 per month	\$4,800
Supplements and Medications	C - Avg \$250 per month	\$3,000
Medical Supplies	As needed	\$200
Grooming	C - Avg \$30 per month	\$360
<b>Horse Tack</b>	5 blankets @ \$60 per horse	\$300
	Easyboots @ \$160 per horse	\$800
	Leg wraps @ \$100 per horse	\$500
	5 halters and lead ropes \$115 each	\$575
<b>Uniforms</b>	2 pair tall dress boots \$250 each	\$500
	3 short riding boots \$130 each	\$390
	12 riding pants @ \$30 each	\$360
	4 riding breaches @ \$100 each	\$400
<b>Public Relations</b>	Bookmarks, ect	\$300
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Stable supplies	\$250
	Laundry	\$300
	Water	\$300

**4230 Maintenance / Building**

<b>3210 Training</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>
Outside Schools / Seminars approx \$1,000 per horse		\$5,000
Travel		\$2,500

**Total Operational Expenses \$56,328**

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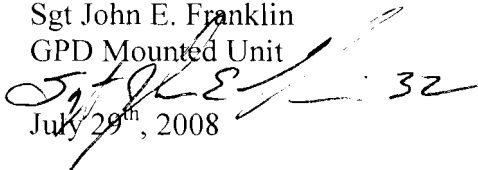
<b>6040 Capital</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
Horse replacement cost		\$5,000

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**Total Proposed FY 2008-2009 Budget \$61,328**

**This proposed budget has been prepared and submitted by:**

Sgt John E. Franklin  
GPD Mounted Unit

 32  
July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Capt  9/3/08

Mounted Patrol Unit  
Budget Proposal  
FY 2007-2008

**4120 – Contractual Services**

**\$36,568**

The MPU has agreed to board the horses at the Victory Sport Horse training facility located at 14004 NE SR 26. The cost associated with this service will be \$450 per horse for an annual expense of \$27,000. This includes the feeding and stabling of the horses. The overall expenses of the contractual services will only increase by \$6,000 which is then negated by the reduction in feed/grain and hay expenses which will be reduced by \$6,850.

This year Spring Hill Veterinary has offered a special health program which costs approximately \$673.50 per horse per year for a total of \$3368. This would include routine checkups ever 4 months with vaccinations, dental work, & blood work for health certificates. Pre-purchase/lease exams, x-ray, and other incidental well-horse requirements would be an additional charge. However, because emergency vet bills can be expensive, the unit maintains an emergency vet buffer of \$3,000.

Farrier services will be paid at \$35 per horse per trim. The optimal trimming schedule would be every three (3) to five (5) weeks resulting in a maximum of \$3,200 for the fiscal year.

**3010 Materials / Supplies**

**\$12,260**

Historically, this budget item, one of the larger expenses for the MPU, has been underestimated resulting in deficit spending. Every effort has been made to accurately estimate the actual expenses in this category.

The majority of funding is used for Feed, Supplements, Uniforms and Tack, which wears out, with use. It is also used to maintain the stables, pastures, and equipment. Riding pants, boots and helmets also come from this budget item.

**3210 Training**

**\$7,500**

During a previous FY, two MPU members were sent to an advanced Mounted Police Instructor school. Both Ofc J Kurnick and Ofc A Hinson successfully completed the 80hr school and are now certified as Mounted Police Instructors. This has eliminated the need

to rely on outside instructors to train the Unit's officers and horses. It is however, desirable to attend outside training seminars or to have an instructor host a training clinic at the Mounted stables. This keeps an ongoing dialogue and contacts with other officers in the field. Local agencies usually hold special joint training events, which are free to attend. However, there is travel and lodging costs involved. With this in mind, \$7,500 has been budgeted to cover Equine related seminars for all members of the Unit.

**6040 Capital**

**\$5,000**

The only item is \$5,000 for a replacement horse. This is requested to be in place in the event of an unexpected injury, death or exigent retirement of one of the current horses.

The Mounted Patrol Unit has been maintaining a compliment of 5 patrol ready mounts for several years. This practice has been established to allow for a serviceable horse being deployed in the event of an injury or sudden retirement of a horse. During the last 2 years, there have been several instances when at least 2 of the 5 horses have been out of service for several weeks and months due to injury. Had there not been the availability of the additional mounts, the unit would not have been able to deploy and conduct their normal assignments.

The transitional delay is substantially less when additional mounts are available upon a retirement of a horse. One of the fully trained horses are then pressed into full time service. The pretense is much like that of having pool patrol vehicles.

An added benefit to having the five patrol ready horses is that during such events as the National Championship celebrations, it allows for the deployment of 5 Mounted Patrol Teams; as we have several department members that would be able to be added to the unit for the event.

Sgt, S. Baker, Cpl. J. Kurnick, Ofc. J. McCollum and Ofc. A. Hinson are examples of several alternate riders that could serve as additional MPU teams if the need arose.

The 2 mount vacancies we are currently experiencing would have been filled had it not been for the uncertainty of the unit's placement on the decrement package. I did not feel it to be a prudent decision to evaluate, purchase and train horses if the unit was to be disbanded. I am requesting this budget be approved as it is written for the full staffing of 5 horses.

**LONG TERM ITEMS:**

**4230 Maintenance / Building**

The Mounted Patrol Unit has enjoyed a large savings in Stable / Pasture expenses over the last several years because of a mutual agreement with the Florida Dept of Environmental Protection and Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. However, our 5 year contract with the state park will end on September 30th 2008. Paynes Prairie has offered us a 20 acre plot of land and a 50 to 99 year lease at no cost to the Gainesville Police

Department. We are currently in negotiations with the State Park Director, Michael Bullock. Currently the land is vacant and the construction of a new barn would be necessary. I have explored many options to include boarding the horses at private facilities. This is an expensive prospect over time. The lowest bid received was for \$450 per horse per month for an annual expense of \$27,000.

The initial investment for the construction of the new facility appears to be substantial. However, as illustrated above the project will pay for itself in only four years using the minimum bid for boarding the stock.

The Mounted Unit Supervisor has requested the State Park Service grant us a long term lease, however, this is a very lengthy process. I am requesting the contract with Victory Sport Horses be accepted for a temporal solution to the housing of the MPU until the funding is approved for fiscal year 2009/2010 for the construction of the new permanent home of the Mounted Patrol Unit. The facility will have to be hurricane proof with the ability to stable 6 horses to allow the transition of training a replacement horse prior to the planned retirement of a mount. There is a desperate need for a functional restroom facility and shower as well as a small office space. This type of facility will cost approximately \$100,000 to be constructed by a certified contractor.



**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
Inter-Office Communication

To: Major R Hanna

Date: 09-02-08

From: Sgt S D Baker 

Subject: GPD Mounted Unit

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This IOC is to shed some light on the concept of maintaining backup horses on the GPD Mounted Unit.

Prior to joining the Mounted Unit in 2003, it had been budgeted for two horses / two riders. This had proved problematic because whenever a horse or rider were out of service, the Mounted Unit for all practical purposes ceased to exist. Also at this time, all training / certification of the horses and riders was done outside the department.

Under my tenure the unit was expanded to three budgeted positions. To save funds and build up the unit several new concepts were adopted.

- 1) We sent two department members to Mounted Police School to become in house trainers (Ofc A Hinson and Cpl J Kurnick.). The trainers were competent to train both horses and riders independently.
- 2) We went with the concept that unit members were trained to ride any of the horses available on the unit, and not just a specific horse.
- 3) We adopted the concept of reserve riders. Once a department member was trained, they could be utilized as a rider after they had left the unit to take other positions within the department.
- 4) We budgeted to maintain four fully trained horses. This concept allowed the unit to handle larger and/or multiple events where two separate teams of horses were needed. There have been many events where four horses have been utilized at the same time at one location and others where multiple events were covered at the same time.

- 5) Horses being what they are; are susceptible to injury, illnesses, and training issues. They go in and out of service, some times months at a time. Also horses of the quality and temperament to be used in police work are hard to come by. With this in mind the concept of maintaining a fifth horse came about. This horse is phased into the unit as it is trained, and often is used to replace a horse that retires from the unit. Over the past two years three horses have retired from the unit, Justice, Clariant, and Calvary. They are also used to replace horses that never quite make the grade, or develop bad habits (such as kicking).

I hope that the department continues to fully fund the Mounted Unit at its current level so that the quality of its horses and the level of service they provide can be maintained.