

New Bedford Police Department plans \$100,000 investment in officer safety

The New Bedford Police Department plans to invest \$100,000 to keep police officers safe, part of New Bedford's continued investment in front-line equipment to protect the officers who protect the community.

The expenditure includes the purchase of 40 active shooter kits. These kits contain ballistic protection for officers facing crisis situations and medical kits to render medical assistance to treat victims of these incidents. The investment also includes the purchase of radios and Tasers.

"This equipment is essential in enhancing our community's safety as well ensuring our officers have the necessary protective equipment in the most critical events requiring a timely heroic response," Chief Joseph Cordeiro said. "I appreciate Mayor Mitchell and the City Council's continuous support."

The proposal is part of an ongoing series of investments in public safety in New Bedford. Last month, Mayor Jon Mitchell announced a proposal to devote unused funds carried over from the previous fiscal year to invest in key public safety needs.

The public safety investments from the City's free cash savings will go toward adding eight front-line police vehicles and a number of pre-owned vehicles for unmarked use to the Police Department's fleet. The existing fleet of 68 police vehicles currently has an average age of eight years of service, despite previous rounds of upgrades, so continued vehicle investments remain a major priority for the Police Department.

The City Council will consider this expenditure, to be funded by a line item transfer and not by new tax revenue, at its next meeting.