



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 4010  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Sheriff-Coroner  
**Department No.:** 032  
**For Agenda Of:** December 12, 2023  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** 4/5

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Bill Brown, Sheriff-Coroner (805-681-4290)  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Joe Schmidt, Lieutenant (805-692-5152)  
**SUBJECT:** Request for Waiver of Competition in Purchase of Law Enforcement Equipment and Approval of Axon Purchase Agreement

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Purchasing, Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) For the purchase of the Axon Enterprises Taser 10 Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) less-lethal tool, pursuant to County Code Section 2-39 authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase this equipment as a sole source procurement without being required to conduct a formal bid process.
- b) Approve and Authorize the Sheriff, or designee, to execute an Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. to purchase Taser equipment for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,063,102.
- c) Approve Budget Journal Entry 0009467 for \$596,900 to increase appropriations of \$49,000 in General County Programs General Fund for Intrafund Expenditure Transfers (+) funded by release of Restricted Public Safety Prop 1102 Fund Balance and to increase appropriations of \$547,900 in Sheriff General Fund for Capital Assets - Equipment funded by release of Restricted Sheriff Asset Forfeiture (\$300,000) and Committed Sheriff Projects (\$198,900)

Fund Balance and an Intrafund Expenditure Transfer (-) in from General County Programs (\$49,000) (Attachment C).

- d) Determine that the activity is not a “Project” subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(4) since the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and section 153108(b)(5), since the activity is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

Under County Code section 2-39, the Sheriff’s Office (SBSO) is requesting that the Board authorize the County’s Purchasing Agent to purchase Axon (Taser) Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW) as a sole source procurement. The equipment will be licensed to SBSO for a five-year period for a total amount not to exceed \$2,063,120.02. Tasers have become invaluable less lethal equipment used by the Sheriff’s Office in the field and in custody facilities. This plan allows SBSO to keep current, serviceable equipment in use while amortizing the cost over the equipment’s life cycle.

The Taser 10 was selected due to its modern platform, compatibility with existing training and infrastructure, and cost-savings in trading in our current inventory of X26P Tasers. These technological advancements are patented and proprietary in nature; therefore, none of these features can be acquired from any other CEW manufacturer. SBSO personnel know the Taser system and the investment in back-office technology will be leveraged with this new purchase.

**Background:**

SBSO equips all law enforcement deputies and custody facilities with Axon (Taser) Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW). The CEW was initially deployed by SBSO in 2004 with the purchase of 250 Tasers, funded by the then Sheriff’s Council non-profit organization.

Since the initial procurement of this less lethal equipment, Axon has made several technological improvements in the CEWs, improving their effectiveness at de-escalating violent encounters. SBSO currently deploys the X26P single shot Taser which has been an effective less lethal tool. However, this system is nearing the end of its usable lifespan and beginning to fail in significant numbers. Additionally, the X26P technology is dated, and Axon is no longer producing this model, making maintenance/repair difficult and costly.

On December 6, 2022, your Board authorized SBSO to purchase Taser 7 equipment (454 units at \$1,444,712) as a sole source procurement without being required to conduct a formal bid process. At the time, the Taser 7 (a 2-shot device) was the most current technology offered by Axon. In early 2023, before receiving the Taser 7, SBSO learned that Axon was releasing a new, 10-shot device offering the most up-to-date version of their lifesaving technology. The Taser 7 procurement was ceased with no cost penalty, and SBSO is now pursuing 460 units of the Taser 10 for \$2,063,102. Axon offered a trade-in credit of \$76,000 for our X26P Tasers, and this credit was applied to the Taser 10 quote.

The features of the Taser 10 include:

- Increased distance of up to 45ft range – more than double compared to the X26P.
- Dock and walk efficiency workflow – All downloads, updates, and battery charging is done through the dock and uploaded to Evidence.com for instant access.
- Improved evidence information on Evidence.com for accountability.
- 10 individually targeted probes which create 9 opportunities for neuromuscular incapacitation (NMI), compared to just 1 with the X26P. This is especially useful in stressful situations.
- Any probe connect capability, which limits ineffective deployments that occur with X26P due to missing the bottom probe, loose/thick clothing, or limited probe spread.
- Adaptive Cross connect technology, maximizing surface area spread for complete incapacitation.
- Automated armory – cuts down admin time by up to 75%.
- Low-voltage system, making it much less likely to ignite flammables.

Additional benefits of this package are the ability for SBSO to immediately issue all law enforcement and custody deputies with the Taser 10 device while amortizing the cost over a period of 5 years. Custody deputies currently do not have a Taser issued to them. Rather, they must check out a Taser at the beginning of their shift and return it at the end of their shift. This results in lost time and increased potential for equipment damage. This new plan would equip all custody deputies with the Taser 10, expediting the check-in/check-out process at the beginning and end of their shifts.

On November 16, 2023, the Debt Advisory Committee approved the Taser 10 proposal for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

**Fiscal Impacts:**

Budgeted: Partially; recommend approval of BJE #0009467.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

The cost of the Taser 10 plan is divided into 5 yearly payments, shown in the chart below. The year 1 costs of \$851,200 will be funded by: 1) a release from fund balance of Sheriff’s Office Asset Forfeiture funds (\$300,000), 2) a release of prior year funding set aside for the taser purchase in Sheriff’s Office fund balance in FY 22/23 (\$198,900), 3) a transfer from Proposition 172 fund balance from General County Programs (\$49,000) that was previously approved, but unused, in FY 22/23) and existing Sheriff’s Office FY 23/24 appropriations (\$303,300) budgeted for this purpose. The future costs of \$302,975 per year will be funded within existing Sheriff’s Office ongoing appropriations.

<b>Payment Year 1</b>	\$ 851,200
<b>Payment Year 2</b>	302,975
<b>Payment Year 3</b>	302,975
<b>Payment Year 4</b>	302,975
<b>Payment Year 5</b>	302,977
<b>Total</b>	\$ 2,063,102

Total cost savings in this quote, which consists of a combination of trade-in credit and bundle/volume discount, are \$374,885.

The attached budget revision releases the above-described funds from Asset Forfeiture, Proposition 172, and Sheriff Projects Fund Balance to fund the year 1 costs of the Taser 10 purchase agreement.

**Special Instructions:**

Please send one copy of minute order to Hope Vasquez at the Sheriff's Office and one copy to the Purchasing Agent.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Taser 10 quote (9 pages)

Attachment B: Axon Master Services and Purchasing Agreement for Agency (14 pages)

Attachment C: BJE 0009467 – Budget Revision

**Authored by:**

Joe Schmidt, Lieutenant

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office