



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Sheriff
Department No.: 032
For Agenda Of: December 6, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Bill Brown, Sheriff (805-681-4290)
Director(s)
Contact Info: Joe Schmidt, Lieutenant (805-692-5752)
SUBJECT: Request for Waiver of Competition in Purchase of Law Enforcement Equipment

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Purchasing and Risk

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) For the purchase of the Axon Enterprises Taser 7 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 Budget Journal Entry 0008643 for \$49,000 to increase appropriations of \$49,000 in General County Programs General Fund for Intrafund Expenditure Transfers (+) funded by release of Restricted Public Safety Prop 172 Fund Balance. Increase appropriations of \$49,000 in Sheriff General Fund for Services and Supplies - Special Departmental funded by an Intrafund Expenditure Transfer (-) in from General County Programs (\$49,000).
- c) Determine that the activity is not a "Project" subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(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 the SBSO for a five-year period for a total amount not to exceed \$1,444,712. 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 providing a steady cost stream to an already strained budget.

The Taser 7 was selected due to its proven track record, compatibility with existing training and infrastructure, and cost-savings in trading in our current inventory of X26P Tasers. 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. The X26P technology is dated, and Axon is no longer producing this model, making maintenance/repair difficult and costly.

Axon recently introduced the Taser 7 conductive energy weapon, which offers significant technological advancements over the X26P model. These features are patented and proprietary in nature; therefore, none of these features can be acquired from any other CEW manufacturer.

These features include:

- Dramatically improved first shot effectiveness - Introduction of new cartridge for optimal probe spread in incapacitation within 10 feet and a tactical cartridge for longer distances.
- Immediate back-up shot ability if the first shot has a disconnect, a probe misses, or the spread is too small for incapacitation.
- Dock and walk efficiency workflow – All downloads, updates, battery charging are done through dock and uploaded to Evidence.com for instant access.
- Improved evidence information on Evidence.com for accountability.
- Re-Designed probe spread for improved accuracy, retention, and attainment.
- Adaptive Cross connect technology which maximizes surface area spread for complete incapacitation.
- Automated armory – cuts down admin time by up to 75%.

Additional benefits of this package are the ability for SBSO to immediately issue all law enforcement and custody deputies with the Taser 7 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 7, expediting the check-in/check-out process at the beginning and end of their shifts.

On 7-29-2022, the Debt Advisory Committee approved the Taser 7 proposal for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

Fiscal Impacts:

Budgeted: Partial – General Fund

Fiscal Analysis:

Axon offered a trade-in credit of \$76,037 for our X26P Tasers. This credit was applied to the Taser 7 quote. The purchase of the Tasers is partially funded in the current Sheriff’s Office budget. The additional \$49,000 will be funded by a transfer from Prop 172 fund balance from General County Programs. The cost of the additional Tasers for the North Branch Jail will be absorbed within existing appropriations. The cost of the Taser 7 plan is divided into 5 yearly payments:

Payment Year 1	\$288,942
Payment Year 2	\$288,942
Payment Year 3	\$288,942
Payment Year 4	\$288,942
Payment Year 5	\$288,942
Total	\$1,444,712

Total cost savings in this quote, which consists of a combination of trade-in credit and bundle/volume discount, are \$370,037.

Special Instructions:

Please send one copy of minute order to Hope Vasquez at the Sheriff’s Office and the Purchasing Agent, General Services Department.

Attachments:

Taser 7 Certification Plan Five-Year Quote Summary (7 pages)

BJE 0008643 – Budget Revision for Intrafund Transfer

Authored by: Joe Schmidt, Lieutenant