



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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Sheriff's Office
Department No.: 032
Agenda Date: February 10, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Bill Brown, Sheriff-Coroner *BBW/2021*
Contact: Susan Farley, Communications Dispatch Manager
SUBJECT: Request for Waiver of Competition for Purchase of Uninterrupted Power Source (UPS) Batteries

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Purchasing; CEO Budget

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Purchasing Agent to procure replacement batteries for the Uninterrupted Power Source (UPS) located in the Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Center in the amount of \$28,960 from Eaton Corporation/Ram-Tek as sole source procurement without being required to conduct a formal bid process;
- b) Approve Budget Journal Entry (BJE)-0010944 to transfer appropriations of \$28,960.00 in Sheriff General Fund from Services and Supplies to Capital Assets for purchase of UPS battery replacement; and
- c) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 13578(b)(5), which are organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to 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 replacement batteries for the UPS located in SBSO's Emergency Communications Center from Eaton Corporation/Ram-Tek as a sole source procurement.

Batteries for a UPS typically last an average of five years. SBSO last replaced the UPS system complete with new batteries on September 11, 2020.

Discussion:

The Sheriff's Office purchased the existing UPS from Eaton on September 11, 2020, to ensure 9-1-1 services - including receiving phone calls, dispatching responders via the radio, and usage of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system - remain operational during a power outage. A UPS allows zero-interruption of services when power is lost as a generator will assume the power load typically 10-20 seconds following an outage.

Without the ability to replace the batteries in the UPS, the Sheriff's Office will either have to purchase a new UPS from another company, or risk losing critical systems such as 9-1-1 phone calls and radio communication with responders. Additionally, without a UPS system in place, the County risks losing funding from California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) 9-1-1 Branch as this branch has specific requirements related to 9-1-1 service reliability standards. Cal OES provides funding for the 9-1-1 phone system, phone maintenance, interpretation services, and specific training related to 9-1-1, which allows the Public Safety Dispatch Center to update and upgrade specific equipment within the dispatch center without impacting the General Fund.

It is critical that the Dispatch Center maintain its capability to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The current UPS batteries are over five years old. During our last inspection and service on November 19, 2025, we were advised that the batteries are at the end of their life expectancy, which could result in UPS failure.

The current UPS is produced by the Eaton Corporation. Ram-Tek, an Authorized Eaton Representative, has been the maintenance and service provider for the current unit for its entire service life. The system has a bypass feature as well as energy saving, remote monitoring and alarm capabilities so the status of the UPS will be known at all times making a catastrophic failure unlikely when properly maintained with functioning batteries.

Eaton Corporation provided a sole source letter which indicates that Ram-Tek is the only certified provider to work on their equipment, including installation of batteries for Southern California leaving this as the only option for purchasing. Specifically, the letter states: "No other service supplier is authorized to possess Eaton proprietary (copyrighted) software, repair documentation, processes or materials. Eaton's manufacturer's representative for Southern California is Ramtek. Ramtek quotes Eaton services on our behalf." Under existing County purchasing rules, the Purchasing Agent may waive bidding requirements where there are limitations on the source or supply, or for other valid reasons, for expenditures that exceed \$25,000, with approval from the Board of Supervisors. County Purchasing concurs with the need for a sole-source purchase from this vendor.

Background:

The Public Safety Dispatch Center provides dispatching services for SBSO, including the contract cities of Carpinteria, Goleta, Buellton, and Solvang, and serves as the primary Public Safety Answering Point, meaning the first point of contact for 9-1-1 calls, for all unincorporated areas as well as the contract cities. The Dispatch Center provides after-hours dispatching and support to many agencies including County Animal Services, County Probation, State Fish and Wildlife, State Parole, FBI, County agencies such as Flood Control, Environmental Health, Emergency Medical Services Agency, the

County and State Office of Emergency Services, and the Office of Emergency Services including being an originator for emergency alerts.

Performance Measure:

The expected performance of new batteries is five years. Annual maintenance and inspection will be done on the system to ensure the batteries are performing as expected.

Contract Renewals:

The County will need to maintain an annual contract for maintenance and inspection for the UPS system (Attachment D, including batteries, for the life of the UPS system. This is something that is already included in the Sheriff's Office budget and is done annually prior to the new fiscal year.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

The purchase of UPS batteries will require no additional General Fund contribution. The Sheriff's Office is using its existing budget for the purchase by requesting a budget revision to move \$28,960 that is appropriated in Services and Supplies (IT Software Maintenance) to Capital Assets (IT Hardware >\$5K) to cover the cost of the batteries.

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	Total
General Fund	\$28,960	\$28,960
State		
Federal		
Fees		
Total		\$28,960

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board: Please send a copy of the minute order to:

- 1) Hope Vasquez, Chief Financial Officer, Sheriff's Office at hmv3600@sbsheriff.org
- 2) Phung Loman, Chief Procurement Officer, General Services at ploman@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

Attachment A – BG111925 Santa Barbara Sheriff- Battery Replacement Proposal

Attachment B – Santa Barbara Sheriff- Eaton Sole Source Letter- 2025

Attachment C – Dispatch UPS BJE 0010944

Attachment D- Eaton 2025 Renewal PO Signed 4.29.25

Contact Information:

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