

Council Meeting  
September 25, 2012

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

**Members of the City Council:**

**SUBJECT: Police and General Services – Authorize a purchase order for Police motorcycles. Expenditure: \$247,596.20.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the Chief of Police and the General Services Director that City Council authorize a purchase order to American Honda Motor Co. Inc., of Torrance, CA, for sixteen (16) model year 2011 Police motorcycles, in the amount of \$247,596.20.

**FUNDING**

Funding is available in the Vehicle Replacement Operating Budget.

**BACKGROUND**

The Police Department currently has a fleet of Harley Davidson motorcycles that were purchased in 2006 and placed into service in early 2007. These motorcycles were originally scheduled for replacement in December of 2012. In 2010, the scheduled replacement date for these motorcycles was extended by one year with a new replacement date of December 2013. The Police Department has experienced significant problems with the Harley Davidson motorcycles which resulted in increased overall costs. Adding another year of service to these motorcycles will compound the problems and increase costs.

The current motorcycles have had recurring mechanical problems with starters and transmissions. Additionally, there have been many cracked engine cases and excessive vibration, causing premature wear and tear on the motorcycles. The motorcycles require frequent, expensive repairs and replacement of parts and components. Since the Harley Davidson engine is air-cooled, the engine can overheat

when an officer leaves the motorcycle running during a prolonged enforcement stops or if the officer drives too slowly for a prolonged period of time, which is often necessary. This requires our officers to repeatedly drive around for a while to cool the vehicle engine, which results in excessive fatigue for the officers. Turning off the engine during a prolonged enforcement stop causes the emergency lights to drain the battery, which at times causes an inability to re-start the engine.

## **ANALYSIS**

American Honda Motor Co. contacted the Police Department in December of 2011 offering a special opportunity purchase of Honda motorcycles. Honda has offered the City a dealer net price of \$13,534 per vehicle, plus \$429 each for a Black Body Work Kit, plus sales tax and a set-up and prep fee of \$290 each for the purchase of sixteen (16) new and unused model year 2011 Honda ST1300PA Police Motorcycles. The total price for sixteen (16) motorcycles including the Black Body Work Kit, sales tax, and dealer prep is \$247,596.20. Purchase of these replacement motorcycles will be accomplished using the accrued vehicle replacement funds for police motorcycles.

Studies of agencies currently fielding the Honda police motorcycles show a substantial savings in annual maintenance costs to operate the Honda police motorcycles over the Harley Davidson. Comparisons of current in-service annual maintenance costs per Honda motorcycle averaged approximately \$2,300 per motorcycle versus the approximately \$8,600 in annual maintenance costs currently being incurred by the City of Torrance to maintain each of the Harley Davidson motorcycles.

This special opportunity purchase allows the City to purchase these motorcycles at the lowest price available, which is much lower than the City could purchase motorcycles from any of their authorized dealers. Additionally, American Honda Motor Co. will absorb the freight to their facility in Torrance, CA. The offer made by American Honda Motor Co. allows the City to purchase parts directly from Honda at dealer cost plus 15% which is substantially lower than the current Harley Davidson dealer parts pricing. Parts will be delivered direct to the City at no charge.

Section 22.3.18 of the Torrance Municipal Code provides an exception to the formal bid requirement for special opportunity purchases, where:

- a) The City Council finds that a proposed purchase that is subject to this Article is either below the current market price and will result in a significant cost savings to the City, or that the proposed purchase is not more than the current market price, and that significant time will be saved in delivery or installation of the equipment by such a purchase; and

- b) The City has a current need for the item or items of property to be purchased.

The current in-service Harley Davidson motorcycles have a total potential residual value of approximately \$48,000. Staff recommends using the funds from liquidating the fleet to purchase Code-3 equipment (lights and sirens) for the new Honda motorcycles. Staff will obtain competitive quotes/bids for the Code-3 equipment and if the purchase exceeds \$39,999.99 will bring forward a separate agenda item in the near future for the purchase of this equipment.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. NEU  
Chief of Police

  
By: Lieutenant Stephen D'Anjou  
Traffic & Special Events Division Commander

CONCUR:

  
John J. Neu  
Chief of Police

  
Sheryl Ballew  
General Services Director

  
LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager