

COUNCIL MEETING
September 12, 2006

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Police - Appropriation and allocation of Asset Forfeiture funds for trauma plates for bullet-resistant vests. Expenditure: \$15,500

RECOMMENDATION

The Interim Chief of Police recommends that City Council appropriate and allocate \$15,500 from Police Unappropriated Asset Forfeiture and approve the purchase of trauma plates for bullet-resistant vests (FEAP 619).

FUNDING

Funding is available in the State Unappropriated Asset Forfeiture account.

BACKGROUND

Due to advancements in technology, the Police Department seeks to upgrade existing equipment to promote officer safety. The Department issues bullet-resistant vests to all Police Officers, Services Officers, and Animal Control Officers. The addition of a five-inch by eight-inch trauma plate to each vest will enhance safety by protecting against blunt trauma injuries.

ANALYSIS

The Police Department currently purchases bullet-resistant vests made by American Body Armor, a subsidiary of Armor Holdings, that meet Threat Level IIA. These vests come with a very thin and flexible trauma panel that provides no protection against blunt force and almost no protection against certain types of ammunition. A trauma plate is a device that can be added to body armor, most commonly to the center torso of a bullet-resistant vest, to increase the wearer's protection against blunt trauma. Blunt trauma injuries are caused by the impact of a weapon against the body armor, resulting in internal injuries such as bruises, broken ribs, or injuries to vital organs.

Protech Tactical, another subsidiary of Armor Holdings, manufactures a new trauma plate ("IMPAC S.T.") that is ultra-lightweight and ten times stronger than steel has been introduced to law enforcement. The IMPAC S.T. trauma plate (5" x 8") is designed to fit into the trauma plate pouch on the Department's approved vest, as they are manufactured by sister subsidiaries. Pouch configurations vary for other manufacturers.

The IMPAC s.t. trauma plate is made of the same composite material used in ballistic shields. It has been tested to exceed Threat Level IIIA and will defeat special threat rounds such as .30 caliber Carbine, .44 Mag, .357 Sig, AK-47 ammo, and 12-gauge Winchester rifle slug. The plate traps the rounds, which eliminates chipping and fragmentation typically found in hard armor plates, and provides additional protection from:

- Strikes to the chest from punches.
- Impacts to the chest during traffic collisions.
- Knife or sharp-edged weapon attacks.

The IMPAC s.t. trauma plate is made specifically to fit the pouch on the vests currently worn by Police Department personnel. The Police Department obtained three quotes for this product:

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| 1. Aardvark Tactical, Inc. | \$63.20 plus tax |
| 2. Adamson Police Products | \$55.00 plus tax |
| 3. Gall's/Long Beach Uniform | \$79.00 plus tax |

The lowest price quote is \$55.00 per unit plus tax. Shipping is included. The total initial cost for 260 trauma plates for 245 sworn and 15 civilian personnel is \$15,479.75. A portion of the cost may be reimbursable under the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) grant. Any reimbursement received for this purchase from the BVP grant will be returned to State Unappropriated Asset Forfeiture.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL BROWNE
Interim Chief of Police



By: Lieutenant Timothy Hillis
Research & Training Division Commander

CONCUR:



Michael Browne
Interim Chief of Police



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager