

Council Meeting
August 14, 2007

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Police - Authorize a purchase order not to exceed \$30,000 to Protective Products International for the Police Department's annual requirement of bullet-resistant vests. Expenditure: Not to exceed \$30,000.

RECOMMENDATION

The Chief of Police recommends that the City Council authorize a purchase order to Protective Products International of Sunrise, FL, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000, for the purchase of the Department's annual requirement of bullet resistant vests as needed. The purchase order will be for a 12-month term, from September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008.

Funding

Funding is available in the Police Department's operational budget (Program Services Uniform Account).

BACKGROUND

The Police Department provides its employees with the necessary safety equipment and uniforms to perform their duties. Included in this equipment are the bullet-resistant vests worn by sworn officers and certain civilian personnel. For the past several years, the Department has obtained vests from a sole vendor who conducted custom fittings at the Police facility, with the makes and models specified by the Department. New vest products are evaluated periodically to ensure optimal protection for Police employees.

ANALYSIS

Bullet-resistant vests require diligent attention to proper selection, fit, and service life. The Department identifies and authorizes specific models of vests for purchase because vests are available in a wide array of models with optional features and costly upgrades. Approximately five years ago, the Police Department began buying vests solely through onsite fittings at the Police facility. This allows Department staff to oversee the proper selection and fit for each officer. It provides an opportunity for new officers to ask experienced officers questions about proper use and whether upgrades are appropriate. As a result, there have been very few problems with vest orders.

In a recent evaluation of bullet-resistant vests, the Police Department selected the Armorlite vest manufactured by Protective Products International of Sunrise, FL, with an office in

El Segundo, California. The Armorlite TG Level II and Armorlite LFT Level II vests provide the best overall fit and protective coverage of the products evaluated by the Department. The Armorlite vest is lighter in weight than the Department's existing vests and its cover is made from material with moisture-wicking properties. Each vest comes with an extra cover, which is the part of the vest most subject to wear and tear. The Department is able to buy direct from the manufacturer at a lower price for better products than was paid for the existing vests.

Protective Products International Vest Model	Price
Armorlite LFT Level II vest with two carriers and soft trauma pack	\$455.00
Armorlite TG Level II vest with two carriers and soft trauma pack	\$465.00
Prices do not include sales tax	

Bullet-resistant vests carry a five year warranty. The Department expects to replace up to 60 vests in the next 12 months, for a total not to exceed \$30,000.

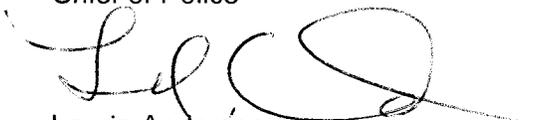
Torrance Municipal Code 22.3.17 b) creates a purchasing exception for sole-source purchases:

b) For purposes of this Section, "sole-source purchases" means those purchases where it would be undesirable or impossible for the City to advertise for bids for particular work or for patented items, or experimental or unique services or products, or where competitive purchases would be unavailable or would not prove advantageous for the City. No sole-source purchases may be made where to do so would show favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud or corruption, or result in the waste of public funds, but may be used only to obtain the best economic result for the public.

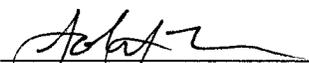
Pursuant to this Section, the Police Department seeks approval to purchase this vital piece of officer safety equipment from Protective Products International.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. NEU
Chief of Police

By 
Laurie Anderson
Business Manager

CONCUR:


John J. Neu
Chief of Police


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager