

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

**Members of the Council:**

**SUBJECT: Police - Appropriate and allocate asset forfeiture funds and authorize a purchase order for X26 Tasers. Expenditure: Not to exceed \$180,000.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the Police Chief that City Council:

1. Appropriate and allocate \$180,000 of asset forfeiture funds for the purchase of Tasers; and
2. Authorize a purchase order not to exceed \$180,000 to Pro Force Law Enforcement of Prescott, AZ, for X26 Tasers and accessories.

**FUNDING**

Funding is available in U.S. DOJ Unappropriated Asset Forfeiture.

**BACKGROUND**

The Police Department has deployed the M26 Taser for nearly a decade, thus keeping pace with evolving technological trends and advancements in law enforcement. Tasers are electronic, less lethal control devices employed by local, national and international law enforcement as an effective, alternate option to the use of deadly force in some situations. The M26 Taser is now becoming outdated as its manufacturer, Taser International, introduced the smaller and more advanced X26 Taser in 2003. Deployment of the X26 has increased amongst local law enforcement as its design advantages make it more suitable for officers to carry as an item of personal equipment. This design advancement gives the X26 wider, more immediate availability, allowing officers to use this effective less lethal force option in a more consistent and timely manner.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Department's current deployment of the M26 Taser has improved the safety of officers and the public by providing an additional force option in the field. Like the majority of local law enforcement deploying Tasers, the Department has experienced a significant reduction in on-duty injuries when a Taser is used.

One of the few drawbacks of the M26, however, has been its size and design which makes it difficult for officers to carry as a piece of equipment when added to an already substantial amount of gear. Taser International now makes a smaller, more advanced X26 model. Staff contacted Proforce Law Enforcement of Prescott, AZ, the sole provider of the X26 Taser in the Western United States, for detailed product information. Overall, the X26 is 60% smaller in size and weight making it more appropriate to being carried on an officer's duty belt. The X26 is powered by a reliable, long-lasting digital power magazine with a ten year shelf life and a meter constantly verifying the Taser's readiness for use. The M26 has no power meter feature and uses commercial AA batteries whose potency is less reliable, therefore requiring more frequent replacement and adding to Department expenses.

Staff contacted local agencies which have phased out use of the M26 in favor of the latest, X26 model. This upgrade has prompted agencies to make the X26 a mandatory carry for their uniformed personnel, which allows the Taser to be applied more effectively to the resolution and de-escalation of violent encounters. These agencies overwhelmingly endorse the product, noting its considerable impact on saving their departments in costs related to injuries and making the benefits of Taser available on a much greater scale. Several police agencies have also reported overall reductions in force related lawsuits and injury costs following deployment of the X26 Taser.

It is prudent to update the force options available for officers' use in a time when violent assaults on the public and law enforcement are on the rise. Equipping all field officers with an X26 Taser provides officers with another readily available, less lethal force option to resolve violent or potentially violent encounters.

Staff has determined that purchasing these items from Proforce Law Enforcement of Prescott, AZ is appropriate as they are the sole provider for the Western United States and therefore fall under the definition of sole source purchases:

### **SECTION 22.3.17. EXCEPTION; 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.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. NEU  
Chief of Police

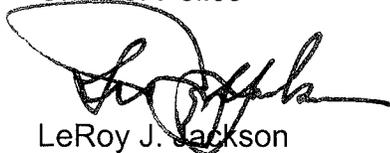


By Lt. Patrick A. Shortall  
Research & Training Division Commander

CONCUR:



John J. Neu  
Chief of Police



LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager

City Manager's Note: This item appropriates \$180,000 of asset forfeiture funds, after which the account's balance becomes \$795,000.