

Council Meeting
October 28, 2008

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Police – Purchase of nerve-agent antidote kits. Expenditure: Not to exceed \$31,750.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council:

1. Appropriate and allocate \$31,750 of asset forfeiture for the purchase of nerve agent antidote kits; including a 10% contingency; and
2. Authorize a purchase order to Meridian Medical Technologies of Columbia, MD, in an amount not to exceed \$31,750, for the purchase of Duodote kits.

Funding

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

BACKGROUND

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Police acquired protective equipment to safeguard against nerve agent attacks domestically. Among this equipment is an auto-injector antidote kit used to provide initial, self-administered treatment against the symptoms of nerve agent poisoning. These kits are designated for first person use by Police to enhance the Department's ability to perform life safety missions in environments contaminated by chemical warfare agents. Subsequently, in 2003, the Department partnered with the Torrance Fire Department to purchase antidote kits from Meridian Medical Technologies of Columbia, MD. Because these antidote kits have a shelf life of five years, the Department's current supply has reached expiration and requires replacement.

ANALYSIS

The Police Department deploys antidote kits in Department vehicles to enable immediate accessibility should personnel be exposed to a nerve agent while in the field. Staff consulted Torrance Fire during research and found that two kits should be made available for every projected occupant of a Department vehicle. Additionally, Fire advised that a reserve supply be retained. Fire recommended that reserve supplies cover the potential need of a third kit for all staff possibly deployed in the field.

Originally, Police teamed with Fire to acquire the antidote kit known as the Mark 1; manufactured by Meridian Medical Technologies of Columbia, MD. Since that time, Meridian has replaced the Mark 1 with a product known as the Duodote. Both kits contain the nerve agent antidotes atropine and pralidoxime chloride (2-PAMCl), but whereas the Mark 1 was inclusive of two separate injections, the new Duodote is administered in a single application.

Because there are no equivalent products available, staff has determined that purchasing these items from Meridian Medical Technologies of Columbia, MD is appropriate as they are the sole provider and therefore fall under the definition of sole source purchases:

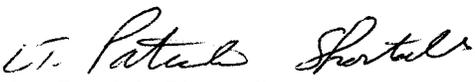
SECTION 22.3.17. EXCEPTION; SOLE-SOURCE PURCHASES.

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.

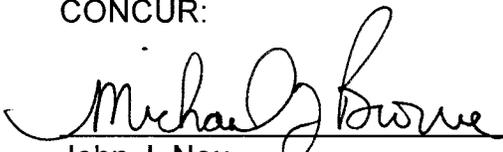
To expedite this purchase, funds will be advanced from the Department of Justice Unappropriated Asset Forfeiture account which, after this appropriation, will have a remaining balance of \$766,447.25. The Department anticipates that residual funds will become available in the 2007 Citizens Options for Public Safety (COPS) grant upon completion of existing projects, and that those funds will be used to reimburse Asset Forfeiture for this purchase.

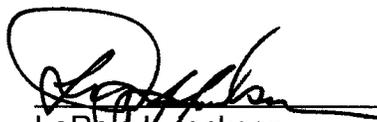
Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. NEU
Chief of Police

By 
Lt. Patrick Shortall
Research & Training Division Commander

CONCUR:


John J. Neu
Chief of Police


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager