

Council Meeting
November 18, 2008

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Police – Purchase of traffic safety vests. Expenditure: Not to exceed \$11,000.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council:

1. Appropriate and allocate \$11,000 of asset forfeiture for the purchase of traffic safety vests; and
2. Authorize a change order to blanket purchase order 2009-124 to Galls/Long Beach Uniform of Long Beach, CA, in the amount of \$11,000, for the purchase of traffic safety vests, for a new total not to exceed \$41,000.

Funding

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

BACKGROUND

New Federal law will require the wearing of high visibility vests for all Police Department personnel when performing on-foot duties within public roadways. The Department of Transportation (DOT) adopted this rule (§23 CFR 634) to decrease injuries and fatalities suffered by workers whose duties expose them to traffic hazards. The law specifies compliance requirements for safety vests, and allows agencies to acquire vest models that are best suited for personnel duties.

ANALYSIS

To comply with new law, the Police Department will acquire traffic vests for all sworn personnel, as well as civilian staff and volunteers who are subject to field deployment. Law currently mandates that vests meet the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 107-2004 Class II classification or higher. Because the ANSI 107 vest was not designed with emergency personnel in mind, DOT intends to amend the law to include a new standard, ANSI 207-2006, which shortens vest designs to allow duty weapon and belt equipment access.

Staff reviewed vest models that are best suited to the varying job functions of Department sworn and civilian field personnel. Galls/Long Beach Uniform carries these items

at discounted pricing to the Police Department. Following product evaluation, the Department will acquire the Tact Guard DC60 vest for all sworn personnel and specified civilian staff who wear belt equipment in the field. These vests are ANSI 207 certified and were chosen because of their design accommodations for safety equipment access, and optional Police agency lettering for easy field identification. Because Crossing Guards do not require design modifications for tactical safety, the Department will acquire the Galls ANSI 107-2004 Class II vests for Crossing Guards. These vests are significantly less expensive than the Tact Guard DC60, providing cost savings to the Department.

On July 1, 2008, Council approved item 8B, authorizing a blanket purchase order to Galls/Long Beach Uniform for uniforms and equipment on an as-needed basis, not to exceed \$30,000 per year. The Police Department is asking Council to authorize a change order to increase the blanket purchase order to \$41,000 to accommodate this purchase. Due to the existing purchase order with Galls/Long Beach Uniform, the vendor has extended purchase pricing for the Tact Guard vests that is 20% below retail. Subsequently, this transaction qualifies as a Special Opportunity Purchase per the Torrance Municipal Code:

TMC SECTION 22.4.5. SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY PURCHASES.

Special opportunity purchases may be made by the City Manager where:

- a) The City Manager finds that the 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.

Funds will be allocated from the Department of Justice Unappropriated Asset Forfeiture account which, after allocation, will have a remaining balance of \$756,029.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. NEU
Chief of Police

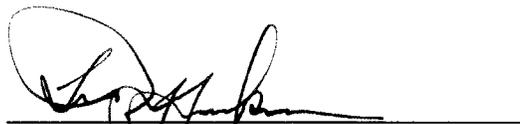


By Kent Sentinella
Administrative Analyst

CONCUR:



John J. Neu
Chief of Police



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager