

Council Meeting of
January 4, 2011

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Police – Authorize purchase of body armor for the Special Weapons and Tactics Team. Expenditure: \$63,314.15.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Police Chief that City Council authorize the issuance of a purchase order to Aardvark Tactical Corporation of La Verne, California, for body armor for the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team, in the amount of \$63,314.15.

FUNDING

Funding is available in the 2007 Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant (\$45,983) and FEAP 383 - Asset Forfeiture Miscellaneous Projects (\$17,331.15).

BACKGROUND

The Police Department's SWAT body armor (ballistic vest) has expired and is in need of replacement to insure that officers are properly protected during high risk incidents. Staff has identified the Protech Trimax PT300 body armor, which provides protection equivalent to SWAT's existing body armor. Protech provided an on-site demonstration, at which time SWAT officers were impressed with the quality, weight, and fit of the Protech product. Aardvark Tactical Corporation of La Verne, California, is a vendor of Protech and is a reputable company among law enforcement agencies. Vendor reliability is crucial due to the time constraints of the 2007 UASI grant, the need to custom fit products at the Police site, and to ensure that no product substitutions are made. Aardvark Tactical Corp. is familiar with the Police Department and will adhere to the 2007 UASI grant requirements.

ANALYSIS

The 2007 UASI grant requires that the product be received and invoiced by February 15, 2011. The lead time for this body armor is approximately 45 days. Due to these requirements, there was insufficient time for staff to formally bid this requirement.

The Torrance Municipal Code Section 22.3.18 EXCEPTION; SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY PURCHASES, states, " Special opportunity purchases may be made by the City Manager where: a) The City Council finds that a 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.

The Purchasing Division requested price quotes from the three (3) Southern California vendors recommended by the manufacturer of the Protech ballistic vest. The following quotes were received.

Vendor	Total Price Quote (includes sales tax)
Aardvark Tactical Corporation, La Verne, CA	\$63,314.15
Quarter Master , Long Beach, CA	\$81,551.43
Galls, Signal Hill, CA	"No Bid"

The sum of \$45,983 is available in the 2007 UASI grant for this purchase. Additional funds in the amount of \$17,331.15 are available in FEAP 383 - Asset Forfeiture Miscellaneous Projects. The purchase of equipment for front-line law enforcement is an appropriate use of asset forfeiture funds.

Respectfully Submitted,

JOHN J. NEU
CHIEF OF POLICE


By Lieutenant Martin Vukotic
Patrol Area Commander

CONCUR


John J. Neu
Chief of Police


LeRoy J. Jackson
for City Manager