



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 7, 2017

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Community Support and Services, Police Department

SUBJECT: Waive Formal Competition Under The Best Interest Waiver And Approve Pro Force Law Enforcement As The Vendor To Provide Replacement Tasers To The Police Department

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Waive the formal bid process as authorized by Municipal Code Section 4.52.070(L), Best Interest Waiver, and authorize the General Services Manager to issue a purchase order to Pro Force Law Enforcement as the most favorable source to provide the City with replacement Tasers in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00, including four one-year renewal options;
- B. Approve a transfer of \$200,000 from existing appropriations in the Police Department, General Fund, Budget to the General Fund Capital Fund; and
- C. Increase appropriations and estimated revenues in the General Fund Capital Fund by \$200,000 for the Taser Replacement Project.

DISCUSSION:

The Police Department presently issues the Taser X26P as a less-than-lethal use of force tool to all sworn officers. When the Police Department first purchased the Taser as a less-than-lethal option 15 years ago, Taser was the only available product on the market. Since that time, all of our 142 sworn officers have been outfitted, trained, and certified on the Taser X26P. The Department has also sent a number of our employees to certification courses to become Taser instructors. Thus, they are not only certified to train officers on the device, but can also testify in court as use of force experts regarding Taser use.

The current supply of issued Taser devices is in need of replacement due to their age and length of service. The Department plans to purchase all new Tasers over the course of several years. Taser devices are provided as standard equipment to all our newly hired officers.

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If the Department purchased a different brand of less-than-lethal devices, costs would increase dramatically as new devices, holsters and training would be needed for all sworn officers. To conduct the training, the Department would either have to pay an outside company for the instruction or send officer to courses to become instructor certification courses.

Municipal Code Section 4.52.070(L), Best Interest Waiver, is applicable because the Police Department is already trained on Tasers and switching to another comparable product would be neither efficient nor cost effective. Pro Force Law Enforcement is the only vendor authorized to sell Taser brand equipment in California.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

As a result of salary savings, funds have been identified within the Police Department budget to cover the purchase of 150 new Taser X26 devices. Therefore, staff recommends transferring \$200,000 of the savings from the General Fund to the Capital Fund where the monies will be appropriated for this replacement project and will be spent over the next several years.

PREPARED BY: Todd Stoney, Captain/lsp

SUBMITTED BY: Lori Luhnnow, Chief of Police

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office