



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: January 27, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Patrol Division, Police Department

SUBJECT: Special Weapons And Tactics (S.W.A.T.) Weapons Exchange And Purchase

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council find it in the City's best interest to waive the formal bid procedure as authorized by Municipal Code §4.52.080(k) and approve the exchange and purchase of new weapons and equipment from Cinema Weaponry.

DISCUSSION:

Since the summer of 2000, the Santa Barbara Police Department SWAT Team has utilized a combination of Heckler & Koch MP-5's and Heckler & Koch G-36's as entry weapons for team members.

After the SWAT Team acquired the G-36's (which are nearing their usable life expectancy), the Santa Barbara Police Department switched from a patrol shotgun to a patrol rifle and the Department acquired the Colt AR-15 semi-automatic Carbine weapon system.

The SWAT Team began a search for a firearms dealer who might be able to accommodate a trade of HK G-36's and other weapons/accessories the SWAT Team no longer uses for Colt M-4's select fire (Semi-automatic/automatic) weapons and accessories. An exhaustive search only revealed one dealer, Cinema Weaponry who was willing to conduct an exchange of our old weapons for credit towards the purchase of new weapons. Cinema Weaponry would also render our old weapons inert for movie prop use and not resell them back to the general public.

Cinema Weaponry of Glendale, CA is a company that specializes in prop weapons for major films and they have the required State and Federal licenses to legally deal in Class III weapons. They also have the ability to make any weapons that they don't sell to other law enforcement/government agencies into prop guns which means that they would no longer function to fire a live projectile. Michael Papac, owner of Cinema Weaponry, was recommended to us as an exchange dealer by the west coast law enforcement sales representative of Heckler & Koch. Papac sent us a confirmation letter that said he would take the HK G-36's and many of the weapons that the SWAT Team has amassed over the years that we no longer use, and could give us credit to purchase Colt M-4's and accessories.

There are many benefits of going to a Colt M-4 weapon for SWAT Team entry weapons. First, having the SWAT Team use the same system as the patrol rifle will allow us to use on-site Colt armorers and on-site parts stores. Second, we will be able to interchange magazines from patrol rifles with SWAT weapons. Third, the Colt M-4 comes with a 6 position collapsible stock system that is substantially more customizable for SWAT Team members and can be changed as team members enter and leave the team. Fourth, the availability of accessories for the Colt platform is almost unlimited and the cost of these items is substantially lower than accessories for Heckler & Koch weapons. Finally, the training is consistent with all other officers in the Department.

Cinema Weaponry was sent a spreadsheet of weapons that would be traded in for credit. Included on the spreadsheet was also a list of the weapons that we would like to purchase on the credit. There will be no budget impact to the City, in fact, Cinema Weaponry confirmed that our trade-in weapons would provide us with a credit of \$9,850 and our purchase would cost \$8,537 leaving a credit of \$1,313 for future use.

It is in the best interest of the City to conduct single source negotiations with Michael Papac of Cinema Weaponry, LLC to trade-in our G-36's and other unused SWAT weapons to transition to the Colt M-4 weapons platform for use by the Santa Barbara Police Department SWAT Team.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

There will be no budget impact to the City.

PREPARED BY: Alex Altavilla, Police Captain

SUBMITTED BY: Camerino Sanchez, Chief of Police

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office