



## **CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

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**DATE:** DECEMBER 3, 2019

**DEPARTMENT:** POLICE DEPARTMENT

**FROM:** ADELE FRESE, CHIEF OF POLICE

**BY:** DALE FORS, SERGEANT

**TITLE:** DIRECT PURCHASE OF LEVEL IV ACTIVE SHOOTER  
RESPONSE KITS FOR SWORN POLICE OFFICERS.

### **RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

It is recommended the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the direct purchase of 154 Level IV active shooter response kits for all sworn police officers from Aardvark Inc. at a total cost of \$155,811.58.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended the City Council approve the recommended motion to purchase Level IV active shooter kits for police personnel. This equipment will undoubtedly provide a greater level of ballistic protection for officers when responding to volatile situations which may involve an active shooter or a critical incident involving a suspect armed with a rifle. By providing this equipment, officers will be able to respond to these events in a more efficient and safe manner while safeguarding lives within the community.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Over the past several decades communities like ours have seen an increase in violent related crimes and active shooters who have and will commit mass homicide with a firearm(s). From recorded incidents such as the Columbine high school massacre in April 1999 to workplace and nightclub shootings such as the Pulse nightclub shooting in 2016, there have been a total of 277 active shooter incidents since the year of 2000. Last year alone, 85 lives were lost during active shooter incidents in the U.S. according to FBI statistics. During these incidents we have learned through the subsequent investigations and historical data these suspects have taken the lives of many community members and officers by way of high-powered rifles and in most cases multiple firearms. As disturbing as these figures are, we have also seen a growing trend of police officers losing their lives to ambush encounters on routine calls such as Officer Natalie Corona who was shot during a routine traffic stop in the City of Davis, CA on January 10<sup>th</sup> of this year.

In order to combat this, police agencies across the nation have employed new tactics, upgraded necessary equipment and collaborated with medical personnel to better respond in a safe, efficient and effective manner. These agencies have developed rescue task forces, equipped their officers and medical personnel with proper ballistic equipment and created new policies and procedures to save lives. By doing this, the morale and legal standard for police officers has changed. As always, patrol officers charge forward into the gunfire immediately as these incidents rapidly unfold to confront gunman and ultimately end the loss of life. When this occurs, officers place themselves to extreme risk with only the equipment they are issued. When an incident such as this occurs in the city of Salinas, our officers will currently respond with patrol level body armor that is handgun rated only and that will not stop rifle fire. They will also respond with no head protection and thus be further exposed to loss of life.

Projecting that an incident such as this will occur in the City of Salinas, it is the departments duty to provide the best equipment possible to give our officers the chance to save the lives of others while also preserving their own. No city is exempt from this type of incident as we have most recently seen at the Gilroy Garlic Festival when officers from the Salinas Police department responded to assist in an active shooter that killed 3 and wounded a total of 17 with an assault rifle.

Based on these facts, the Salinas Police Department wishes to purchase Level IV active shooter kits for patrol officers. These kits include a rifle rated ballistic vest and helmet for each officer that will come with a carry bag and extra pouches for necessary life-saving equipment. These ballistic vests and helmets would be kept in the trunks of each officer's patrol vehicle and would be available for them to quickly place them over their uniform to rapidly deploy with rifle rated protection. The vests will be provided by Aardvark Inc. who have agreed to develop the latest rifle rated ballistic vest that will be custom tailored to the Salinas Police Departments active shooter needs. This vendor was also chosen after contacting several vendors and conducting demonstrations to find the best quality vests at an acceptable price. Vendors from other sources quoted up to double the price of the Aardvark Inc. active shooter kit. The police department is currently asking to purchase these kits for 154 officers, which is our current sworn strength, at a total cost of \$155,811.58.

City council has the authority to approve this purchase under Salinas Municipal code Section 12-27 and without application of the local purchasing preference pursuant to Salinas Municipal Code Section 12-28.080.

This report has been presented to the Police Community Advisory Committee.

#### CEQA CONSIDERATION:

The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities, which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen

with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

1. Economic Diversity and Prosperity: This item does not specifically relate to one of the Council's Strategic Plans or Goals.
2. Safe, Livable Community: Relates specifically under the objective "Update Technology in Public Safety."
3. Effective, Sustainable Government: This item does not specifically relate to one of the Council's Strategic Plans or Goals.
4. Well Planned City and Excellent Infrastructure: This item does not specifically relate to one of the Council's Strategic Plans or Goals.
5. Quality of Life: This item does not specifically relate to one of the Council's Strategic Plans or Goals.

#### DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

The Salinas Police Department will coordinate with the Finance Department to complete this purchase upon City Council's approval.

#### FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Account #1100.40.4220-62.4300 currently has funding available for purchase of the active shooter kits. This account currently has \$161,336.96. Total cost of the active shooter kits is 155,811.58.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Council Resolution  
Quotes