



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

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**DATE:** August 13, 2019

**DEPARTMENT:** POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

**BY:** DALE FORS, POLICE SERGEANT

**TITLE:** DIRECT PURCHASE OF POLICE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

### **RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

It is recommended that City Council approve a resolution authorizing the direct purchase of the following equipment:

- (1) twenty-seven (27) project seven ballistic entry vests for the Salinas Police Department SWAT team from Aardvark Inc. at a total cost of \$125,369.84;
- (2) six (6) project seven ballistic entry vests for police department K-9 handlers from Aardvark Inc. at a total cost of \$28,874.80; and
- (3) six (6) sets of pro-tech delta five high cut ballistic helmets and TCI liberator electronic hearing protection systems for the K-9 handlers from Curtis Blue Line at a total cost of \$18,157.35.

The total cost for all of this equipment is \$172,401.99

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council approve the recommended motion to purchase this equipment in order to replace expired ballistic vests for the Salinas Police Department SWAT team and to add additional personal protection for Salinas Police K-9 handlers who have been deployed and trained to assist in tactical operations with the SWAT team.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Salinas Police Department SWAT team currently has 26 members assigned with 4 of those being Fire Department paramedics as part of the tactical medic program. The SWAT team responds to dangerous and hazardous high-risk incidents which can be both departmentally and suspect initiated. On average, the team responds to 15-25 of these incidents annually, which range from high-risk search warrants for homicide suspects to suspect-initiated callouts involving barricaded gunman or open-area searches for armed suspects. In order to respond appropriately and provide life-saving protection for the officers assigned, they are equipped with heavy ballistic

vests in order to provide bullet proof protection. Currently the vests, which were purchased through a homeland security grant in 2014, are either expired or set to expire their lifespan of 5 years within the next few months. In order to continue safe deployment, the Salinas Police Department SWAT team needs these replacement vests.

Additionally, it became very apparent during a recent incident that Salinas Police K-9 handlers also need the same level of protection as the SWAT operators during critical incidents. Currently the K-9 unit has six officers assigned and two are S.K.I.D.D.S. trained to fully integrate with the SWAT team during these high-risk situations. In May 2019, members of the K-9 team was called out along with the Salinas Police Department SWAT team to Gonzalez, CA to track an armed suspect who had fired at Gonzalez police officers. During the open-area search, the K-9 handler was exposed to the same conditions as the SWAT officers with little ballistic protection. The suspect was located by the K-9 and fortunately was taken into custody without further shooting at officers. In order to rectify this deficiency, it is necessary to purchase ballistic vests, ballistic helmets and electronic hearing protection that connects to the department's radios for the K-9 officers. Due to the ballistic vest worn, the electronic hearing protection is required due to its integration with the Salinas Police departments communication system.

The department has chosen the Aardvark project 7 ballistic vest, pro-tech Delta 5 high cut helmet with Team Wendy suspension system and the TCI Liberator 5 electronic ear protection for comfort, maneuverability and overall weight. All of this equipment is industry standard and used by several other California agencies. Aardvark and Curtis Blue Line are sole source vendors and council has the authority to approve this purchase under Salinas Municipal Code Section 12-27: Aardvark is the only manufacturer which supplies the type of vest proposed to be purchased; consequently, a competitive bidding process will not result in any benefit to the City or result in a lower cost as these particular vests are otherwise unavailable; this is a sole-source purchase. With regard to the helmets and the electronic ears, the proposed purchase is less than the purchasing threshold and therefore does not require City Council approval; however, this proposed purchase was included to provide transparency to the purchasing process.

This report has not been viewed by any 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).

#### DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION

The Salinas Police Department will coordinate with the Purchasing Division to complete the acquisition of the equipment, provided it is authorized by the City Council.

#### 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.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

There are funds available in the current 2019-2020 fiscal year budget. Account 1000.40.4220-62.5120 has funding available for the purchase of the equipment at a total cost of \$172,401.99

ATTACHMENTS:

Council Resolution  
Vehicle and equipment quotes  
Vehicle Bid Tabulation