



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: MARCH 3, 2020

DEPARTMENT: SALINAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

FROM: ADELE FRESÉ, CHIEF OF POLICE

BY: COMMANDER JIM ARENSDORF

TITLE: DIRECT PURCHASE OF 19 RIFLES FOR POLICE OFFICERS

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the direct purchase of 19 Colt Rifles for sworn police officers from L.C. Action Police Supply at a total cost of \$37,795.22.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council approve the direct purchase of 19 Colt Rifles for sworn police officers from L.C. Action Police Supply. This equipment will increase number of department-owned rifles which can be issued to police officers who are qualified to deploy them while on duty.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Salinas Police Department's current equipment inventory does not allow us to issue department-owned rifles to all police officers who are qualified to deploy them when on duty. This results in a significant number of our patrol officers not being equipped to effectively engage a threat involving a rifle or active shooter. The Salinas Police Department currently has 30 department-owned patrol rifles and 87 patrol officers. We are requesting authorization for the direct purchase of an additional 19 rifles.

BACKGROUND:

Over the past several decades communities like ours have seen an increase in violent crimes and active shooters who have and will commit mass homicide with firearms. Since the year 2000, there have been a total of 277 active shooter incidents during which suspects have taken the lives of community members and officers by way of high-powered rifles and multiple firearms.

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. 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. It is the department's 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 saw 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.

The Salinas Police Department does not currently have enough patrol rifles to issue to all patrol officers who have trained and qualified to deploy them on duty. We currently have 30 department owned patrol rifles and 87 officers assigned to patrol. This results in a significant number of patrol officers not being equipped to effectively engage a threat involving a rifle or active shooter. Further complicating the shortage of department issued rifles is a recent change in the releasing of evidence following officer involved shootings. Defense attorneys have been unwilling to stipulate to the evidence collected from a firearm involved in an officer involved shooting, resulting in excessive delays in the firearm being released to the officer. As a result, the department is unable to provide a replacement rifle for officers to deploy.

The Salinas Police Department wishes to standardize the department-owned rifles and has selected the Colt AR-15 based upon documented dependability of the weapon. Standardization of rifles will support consistency in operations and training. There are only two firearms dealers in California, one in Northern California and one in Southern California, who are capable of filling the requested order due to the nature of the law enforcement weapons being purchased. Typical delivery time for rifles is more than six months from the order date. The department continues to wait for delivery of the last order of rifles placed on September 11, 2019. In contacting vendors for this order, we determined that L.C. Action Police Supply had access to the desired rifle with a scheduled shipment from the manufacturer which would support delivery to the Salinas Police Department within 30 days of order. Given the limited vendors available and the expedited delivery timeline for the desired rifle, L.C. Action Policy Supply was selected for this order. L.C. Action Police Supply is located in San Jose, California and there are no local vendors for this purchase.

Based on these facts, the Salinas Police Department wishes to purchase 19 Colt AR-15 .223 rifles for patrol officers from L.C. Action Police Supply at a total cost of \$37,795.22. City council has the authority to approve this direct 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.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. 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).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

Approving the proposed resolution will support the City Council's Strategic Plan Goal of Public Safety.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

The Police Department will coordinate with the Finance Department during the purchasing process.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Funds have been requested as part of the FY 2019-20 Mid-Year Budget process. Account 1000.40.4220-62.5120 will be used to purchase the rifles.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
L.C. Action Quote