



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: AUGUST 24, 2021

DEPARTMENT: POLICE SERVICE OF SALINAS

FROM: ROBERTO FILICE, ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE

BY: TONYA ERICKSON, MANAGEMENT ANALYST

TITLE: DIRECT PURCHASE OF 33 RIFLES FOR POLICE OFFICERS

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the direct purchase of 33 Colt Rifles for sworn police officers from L.C. Action Police Supply at a total cost of \$67,657.06.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council approve the direct purchase of 33 Colt Rifles for sworn police officers from L.C. Action Police Supply. This equipment will increase the number of department-owned rifles which can be issued to police officers who are qualified to deploy them while on duty.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Police Service's current equipment inventory does not allow the issuance of 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 respond to highly volatile situations involving firearms, including an active shooter. The Police Service currently has 49 department-owned patrol rifles and 87 patrol officers. We are requesting authorization for the direct purchase of an additional 33 rifles.

BACKGROUND:

Over the last several years, there has been an increase in the frequency and intensity of active shooter incidents. 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. 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. Officers from the Police Service of Salinas often respond to highly volatile situations involving firearms and are called upon to assist other jurisdictions in active shooter situations such as the Gilroy Garlic Festival and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office shooting.

The Police Service of Salinas does not currently have enough patrol rifles to issue to all patrol officers who have been trained and qualified to deploy them on duty. We currently have 49 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 firearm 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 Police Services is standardizing 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 can fill the requested order due to the nature of the law enforcement weapons being purchased. Given the limited vendors available, L.C. Action Policy Supply was selected for this order. L.C. Action Police Supply is in San Jose, California and there are no local vendors for this purchase.

The Police Service will be using \$62,599 of the 2020 Grant from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program toward the purchase of these rifles. The JAG Program is used by the Department to support one-time expenditures for equipment, supplies, and training related to allowable criminal justice activities. The remaining \$5,058.06 will be funded by the existing Police Service budget.

Based on the facts above, the Police Services wishes to purchase 33 Colt AR-15 .223 rifles for patrol officers from L.C. Action Police Supply at a total cost of \$67,657.06. 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 Service will coordinate with the Finance Department during the purchasing process.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The Police Service will be using \$62,599 of the 2020 JAG Program Grant (account 3161.40.7101) The Police Service budget (account 1000.40.4220-62.5120) will be used for the remaining \$5,058.06.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
L.C. Action Quote