



## **AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Action Item for the City Council Meeting September 9, 2025

**DATE:** September 9, 2025

**TO:** Peter Zaroni, City Manager

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### **Purchase of Spartan Robot upgrade for the Corpus Christi Police Department's Bomb Squad**

#### **CAPTION:**

Resolution authorizing the purchase of an upgrade package for the City's existing Spartan bomb detection robot from Remotec, of Clinton, Tennessee, for the Corpus Christi Police Department's Bomb Squad in an amount up to \$267,738.00, with FY 2025 funding in the amount of \$105,501.57 from the 2025 Police Grant Fund and \$162,236.43 from the 2025 Law Enforcement Trust Fund—Federal.

#### **SUMMARY:**

This item is a motion to approve the purchase of an upgrade package for a Spartan bomb detection robot. The upgrade package will be purchased from Remotec, of Clinton Tennessee. The Spartan bomb detection robot is used by the Corpus Christi Police Department's Bomb Squad.

#### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

This item is for an upgrade package for an existing Spartan bomb detection robot that is used by the Corpus Christi Police Department's (CCPD) Bomb Squad. CCPD currently has two Spartan Robots, one of which will receive the upgrade package. The Spartan robots serve as an essential alternative to sending Bomb Squad personnel into scenes that contain an improvised explosive device (IED). The Spartan Robot is remotely operated by a bomb squad member and features cameras and a manipulator arm that enable it to dismantle IEDs. The capabilities of the Spartan robot reduce the risk to Bomb Squad personnel in hazardous areas.

In the event of an IED call, Bomb Squad personnel must approach the device and take action to neutralize the bomb. However, the Spartan bomb detection robots ensure that Bomb Squad personnel do not have to be sent into this hazardous situation. The Spartan bomb detection robots can perform many of the tasks that a person would be asked to perform and greatly reduce the threat or potential loss to human life. The Spart bomb detection robots can

also perform other tasks, such as monitoring air quality before Bomb Squad personnel enter an area and taking X-rays of a bomb so that a person does not have to approach. They can also be used to recover a person (police or civilian) who is down and incapable of getting away from the proximity of IED on their own.

The existing Spartan bomb detection robot that this upgrade package is for has been in service for 15 years. The upgrade package will modernize the robot and is expected to extend the life of the robot by approximately 15 more years.

The upgrade package for the existing Spartan bomb detection robot consists of numerous items. A list is provided below for a general overview of the major upgrades to the robot's systems and assembly.

- Refurbish chassis components
  - Upgrade drive motors, service gears, bearings, drive tracks, wheel assembly
- New electronic housing and components
  - Surveillance cameras, battery pack, tool kit, pneumatic wheel kit, interface mount, vehicle charger assembly, fiber optic cables
- Operator controls
  - Laptop with touchscreen, docking station, controllers, touchscreen monitors, headsets
- Equipment upgrades
  - Breacher, X-ray assembly, radio control assembly, circular saw assembly

The upgrade package comes with a five-year extended warranty. It also includes a two-day on-site operator/maintenance training course for up to six people. The upgrade process will take approximately six months to complete. Once completed, the robot will be placed back into service with CCPD's Bomb Squad. The upgrade package for the existing robot will save the City more than \$285,000 as compared to purchasing a new robot with equivalent equipment and technology.

The \$105,501.57 coming from the Police Grant Fund is grant funding that was received in July 2025 from the Texas Office of the Governor – Homeland Security Grant Division for the State Homeland Security Program. When applying for and receiving the award for this grant, the grant funding of \$105,501.57 was specified for use toward this Spartan bomb detection robot.

### **PROCUREMENT DETAIL:**

This is a sole source procurement to upgrade an existing Spartan detection robot to be used by the Corpus Christi Police Department's Bomb Squad.

This procurement is through a statutory exemption in Texas Local Government Code, Section 252.022(a)(7)(A), as these services are available from only one source because of patents, copyrights, secret processes, or natural monopolies; and there is a second statutory exemption for this procurement in Texas Local Government Code, Section 252.022(a)(2), as this purchase is necessary to preserve or protect the public health or safety of the municipality's residents.

The proprietary equipment, features, and upgrade from Remotec, Inc. will be installed per specifications and authorizations made by the Corpus Christi Police Department. The upgrade package for the existing robot will save the City more than \$285,000 as compared to purchasing a new robot with equivalent equipment and technology.

CCPD has previously purchased Spartan bomb detection robots as well as robot upgrade packages from Remotec, Inc. CCPD recommends continuing to work with Remotec, Inc. for the purchase of this upgrade package in order to keep congruity of parts, quality, and customer service for its Spartan bomb detection robots.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative is not to approve the purchase of the robot upgrade and return the grant funds to the Office of the Governor, Homeland Security Grants Division. However, this will leave CCPD's Bomb Squad with an older Spartan bomb detection robot that will require frequent repairs. This will result in the robot not being in service on a recurring basis which will hinder the Bomb Squad's operation and the safety of its team members as well as the public. Also, overtime the repair costs will increase and it is possible that eventually the robot will no longer be operable.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The fiscal impact for FY 2025 is funding in the amount of \$105,501.57 from 2025 Police Grant Fund \$162,236.43 from the 2025 Law Enforcement Trust Fund—Federal.

### **Funding Detail:**

Fund:	1062
Organization/Activity:	89/821275F
Department:	10
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A
Account:	520090
Amount:	\$105,501.57

Fund:	1074
Organization/Activity:	89/826100F
Department:	29
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A
Account:	520090
Amount:	\$162,236.43

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the purchase of Spartan bomb detection robot upgrade package from Remotec, Inc., as presented.

### **LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Service Agreement  
Price Sheet Resolution