



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting of February 27, 2024

DATE: February 27, 2024
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
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Purchase of Body Armor for the Corpus Christi Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics Team and Hostage Negotiations Team

CAPTION:

Motion authorizing the purchase of 57 replacement and two additional pieces of body armor from GT Distributors, of Austin, Texas, through the BuyBoard Cooperative for the Corpus Christi Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics team and Hostage Negotiation Team in the amount of \$167,968.27, with FY 2024 funding in the amount of \$160,346.31 from the Fire Grants Fund and \$7,621.96 from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund.

SUMMARY:

This motion authorizes the purchase of 57 replacement and two additional pieces of body armor from GT Distributors for use by the Corpus Christi Police Department's (CCPD) Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team and Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT).

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

On November 14, 2023, the City Council accepted a grant from the Homeland Security Grant Program's (HSGP) State Homeland Security Program in the amount of \$160,346.31 for the purchase of additional pieces of body armor for CCPD's SWAT and HNT teams.

The grant funding awarded from the HSGP grant will be used for the proposed purchase of 57 replacement and two additional pieces of body armor that will provide increased protection for the Corpus Christi Police Department Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and Hostage Negotiation (HNT) teams. The proposed purchase will supply CCPD's SWAT and HNT teams with Level III body armor. Level III body armor defends against handguns and rifles. The Level III body armor will enhance the SWAT and HNT teams' ability to resolve situations while with armed suspects. Currently, CCPD has 57 pieces of Level III body armor. The current Level III body armor is reaching the end of the manufacturer's recommended useful lives, which is approximately five years.

The SWAT and HNT teams are comprised of 57 members (46 SWAT and 13 HNT), and they assist local, state, and federal partners to safely de-escalate high-risk situations. CCPD's SWAT and HNT teams respond not only to the city of Corpus Christi, but also to the United States Navy facilities in the region, schools, colleges, universities, surrounding counties, and other surrounding cities.

The City has received this grant since 2002. The Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) has submitted the grant applications to the HSGP on behalf of the CCPD and other City departments. Last year, the City received \$97,753.00 from this grant.

PROCUREMENT DETAIL:

This procurement is through the BuyBoard Cooperative. Contracts awarded through the BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative have been competitively procured in compliance with local and state procurement requirements.

GT Distributors, Inc. is a frequent supplier of body armor and other equipment to CCPD. GT Distributors, Inc. is the only vendor through the BuyBoard Cooperative to offer the Level III Body Armor. The Level III Body Armor offered through GT Distributors, Inc. is compliant with the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) standards, as required by the Body Armor Grant Program.

Through competitive lower costs, product availability, and shorter lead times, GT Distributors, Inc. has been able to reliably supply CCPD with their equipment, including body armor. CCPD has been and remains satisfied with GT Distributors, Inc.'s service and quality control of products, including body armor.

GT Distributors, Inc. offers discount pricing through the BuyBoard cooperative contract, which contributed to MSRP savings of \$134,519.49 for the purchase of 57 replacement and two additional pieces of body armor.

MSRP	GT Distributors	Variance in Dollars	Variance in Percent
\$302,487.76	\$167,968.27	\$134,519.49	-45%

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to approve the proposed purchase; however, this would place the public and police officers at a higher risk of terrorism and catastrophic events as these funds are not part of the City's FY 2024 General Fund Budget.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact for CCFD and CCPD in FY 2024 is \$160,346.31 from the Fire Grants Fund and \$7,621.96 from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund: 1062 Fire Grants Fund
Organization/Activity: 821273F
Project# (CIP Only): N/A
Account: 540045
Amount: \$160,346.31

Fund: 1074 Law Enforcement Trust Fund - Federal
Organization/Activity: 826100F
Project# (CIP Only): N/A
Account: 520090
Amount: \$7,621.96

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the purchase of 57 replacement and two additional pieces of body armor for \$167,968.27 for CCPD SWAT team, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Price Sheet