



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Sean Thuilliez, Chief of Police
DATE: September 6, 2022
SUBJECT: Purchase and Implementation of Bola Wrap Less Lethal Tool

Background and Analysis:

The Beaumont Police Department constantly strives to improve and enhance the ability of the police officers to calm or diffuse a situation with the least amount of force possible.

The BolaWrap® 150, a less lethal tool developed for use to prevent or reduce the need for officers to engage in a use of force encounter in the field. The BolaWrap is a hand-held remote restraint device that discharges an eight-foot Kevlar cord to entangle an individual at a range of 10-25 feet.

The BolaWrap® 150 is equipped with entangling barbs at each end of the Kevlar cord. A subject who is actively or passively resisting or taking a fighting stance with closed fists and bladed posture can instantly be wrapped around the legs or arms with the BolaWrap. This helps to alleviate the risk of physical injury to the officer, the subject, or any bystanders.

Senate Bill 230 redefined what deadly force is and has mandated certain requirements for use of force training and revision of department policies to comply with the law. Senate Bill 230 states each law enforcement agency shall, by no later than January 1, 2021, maintain a policy that provides a minimum standard on the use of force. Each agency's policy shall include, in part, all of the following:

- A requirement that officers utilize de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention tactics, and other alternatives to avoid force when feasible.
- A requirement that an officer may only use a level of force that they reasonably believe is proportional to the seriousness of the suspected offense or the reasonably perceived level of actual or threatened resistance.

- A requirement that officers consider their surroundings and potential risks to bystanders, to the extent reasonable under the circumstances, before discharging a firearm.
- Training standards and requirements relating to demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the law enforcement agency's use of force policy by officers, investigators, and supervisors.

Use of the BolaWrap will help to avoid escalating situations, as it allows officers to restrain a subject quickly and from a safe distance. The BolaWrap works by restricting mobility to gain compliance, giving officers extra time to encounter an otherwise uncooperative subject. Use of the BolaWrap, training and other tools provided by the department intend to provide additional options for officers when encountering uncooperative persons or those suffering from a mental crisis.

Fiscal Impact:

The initial cost of this device and accessories is \$35,033.84, which includes an extended warranty. On-going expenses include cartridge replacements of \$29.95/each, which will be programmed into future budgets and become part of the police department's equipment replacement schedule.

Recommended Action:

Approve the purchase of 20 BolaWrap systems, including accessories and warranty from general fund account 100-2050-7070-0000.

Attachments:

- A. BolaWrap Quote