



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

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### STAFF

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Jackie Pearson, Police Lieutenant  
Dawn Downs, Legal

### SUBJECT

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**Resolution 2023-072 Authorizing the Sound Mitigation Project for Northern Colorado Law Enforcement Training Center Firing Range.**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The purpose of this item is to seek approval to use existing funds from the NCLETC capital budget in the amount of approximately \$136,632 to make necessary modifications to the sound noise abatement materials in the firing range.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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Staff recommend adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

### BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

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NCLETC officially opened for use in March of 2021. The facility is used by the two owning agencies (Fort Collins and Loveland) as well as several outside agencies for a variety of training needs, including firearms training in the firing range. After several months of operation, some concerns regarding noise exposure levels were raised by employees of Fort Collins Police Services (FCPS). In response to those concerns, City SRM representative Maggie Escobar conducted some exposure studies and found that the sound levels were above the acceptable range as determined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Maggie Escobar then facilitated a comprehensive noise mapping study which was conducted by Colorado State University (CSU) Industrial Hygiene Masters' level students. This study confirmed that the current materials in the range are not effective in reducing noise levels appropriately for individuals on the range during firing events.

Since then, this issue has been temporarily mitigated by modifications to certain training practices and the requirement of the use of dual hearing protection during training. Both practices are not ideal in the long term. Modifications to training practices have limited some capabilities designed for the range. Some of these modifications include limiting the number of shooters allowed to train at one time and elimination of certain training sequences which have been shown to increase noise levels above acceptable. The requirement of dual hearing protection has created collateral issues such as reduction in the ability to communicate effectively and safely during training.

While these efforts to limit sound exposure are moderately effective, they are not ideal for the long term and are only temporary fixes. Having to place limits on training dynamics defeats one of the purposes of having a range of this size and safe communication during training is a necessity.

It is also important that the potential long-term safety issue of over-exposure to unsafe sound levels be addressed, not only for the benefit of owner-agency employees, but also for others who rent or use the facility.

It appears that some of the originally installed noise abatement materials are not functioning as originally expected and need to be replaced with more effective materials. These replacement materials have been identified in accordance with the recommendations from the CSU study and a vendor has been identified. The estimated cost per current bid obtained by Loveland's purchasing department (per the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)) is \$136,632 with final costs determined after modifications are complete.

Per the current IGA for NCLETC, "policy issues" such as construction of capital projects require the approval of each city's Councils, and each city shall review and approve all procurements and associated agreements and change orders exceeding \$10,000. Loveland Police Department is independently presenting this information to Loveland City Council to meet this requirement of the IGA.

### **CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

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There will be no financial impact on the City as these funds already exist in the NCLETC Capital Fund.

### **BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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Not applicable.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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Not applicable.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Resolution for Consideration