



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: September 9, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: Consider approving the purchase of five (5) PepperBall VKS Bundles and associated accessories not to exceed \$11,000 and authorizing the police department to sell / transfer five (5) 12ga less-lethal shotguns.

PREPARED BY: Chief Andy Morgan

BACKGROUND:

Grand Rapids Police Department responds to over 10,000 calls for service per years. The necessity for Grand Rapids Police department, and the overall profession, to evolve is constant. Searching for new tools and techniques to better deliver this police service is something that this department is committed to.

The police department has been equipped with “less-lethal” shotguns for years. These firearms shoot a beanbag-like projectile from a 12ga shotgun. The concept is simple and relies on the projectile impacting the intended target. If mistakes are made, this tool are considered “lethal”.

Police leadership contacted a company called PepperBall. PepperBall designs, manufactures and sells a “non-lethal” alternative. The PepperBall VKS Pro has the appearance of a standard paintball gun. It is bright yellow and expels a projectile that is designed to burst upon impact. The bursting projectile then disperses a large cloud of organic irritant (PAVA) that allows law enforcement to address the situation more safely.

Grand Rapids Police hosted a local product demonstration on August 26, 2024. The versatility and effectiveness of these PepperBall products were impressive. The ability to deploy a non-lethal tool, gain compliance and accomplish law enforcement goals, with no lasting effects makes this tool a must have for Grand Rapids Police Department.

The launchers and projectiles are proprietary and cannot be interchanged between comparable platforms.

PepperBall offers a \$100 buy-back for each less-lethal shotguns. We have identified the following five (5) 12ga shotguns that we would be including in the transaction. None are considered to have a \$100 value.

1. Mossberg B64851
2. Mossberg 047270
3. Mossberg MV13614A
4. Winchester L8066312
5. Remington R564683

PepperBall is believed to be a 20-year industry leader. Police leadership is confident that adding five (5) PepperBall VKS bundles will give us the tools techniques to advance our delivered police service to this community. This is a non-budgeted item and would be satisfied by utilizing funds from the asset forfeiture account. See attached quote.

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