

MEMORANDUM



Armando Corpuz
Chief of Police

Milpitas Police Department

DATE: September 25, 2019
TO: Armando Corpuz, Chief of Police
FROM: Raj Maharaj, Special Operations Division Captain *Raj*
SUBJECT: **Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant (BVP)**

The Milpitas Police Department has been awarded \$18,546.07 as part of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program. The BVP Program is a U.S. Department of Justice initiative designed to provide critical resources to state, local, and tribal jurisdictions. The sole purpose of the grant is to assist in purchase of bulletproof body armor for sworn law enforcement personnel. The Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the grant, and since 1999, the BVP Program has awarded \$467 million to over 13,000 jurisdictions to assist in the purchase of more than one million bulletproof vests as of January 2019.

Through the BVP Program grant, states, local government, and tribal governments are reimbursed up to 50 percent of the cost for each eligible body armor purchased for law enforcement personnel. Under current legislation, jurisdictions with fewer than 100,000 residents receive priority funding. In order to qualify for this reimbursement, body armor must comply with the most current National Institute of Justice (NIJ) body armor standards. Information pertaining to the current NIJ standards is provided online at the following website: www.ojp.gov/nij/topics/technology/body-armor. The Milpitas Police Department has been participating in the BVP grant consecutively since 2008. The BVP grants cover a two-year period and the current 2019 BVP grant will expire on August 31, 2021. Although this is a 2019 BVP grant request, it will cover future purchases through August 31, 2021.

The Milpitas Police Department provides sworn personnel with ballistic vests and replaces them every 5 years per the Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.), because the warranty period by all manufacturers is five years. Out of an abundance of caution for the safety of our personnel, we encourage them to replace their expired bulletproof vests every five years to ensure maximum performance of their issued equipment. Additionally, Section 22.11 of the M.O.U. states the following: *The City shall provide each officer with a ballistic vest, and three (3) vest covers at time of purchase, to be selected from a list approved by the Police Chief. All ballistic vests that have been in use for five years shall be replaced, as soon as reasonably possible.*

Based on Department policy, sworn personnel are allowed to purchase bulletproof vests, which meet federal safety standards, through various manufacturers. The variety of purchasing options can result in price variations for their purchase, which directly is a result of personal choice of each officer. Some factors that can affect the price of a bulletproof vest include its safety rating, manufacture, model, and various comfort features.

Each year BVP accepts applications from eligible agencies for reimbursement funds. The application process includes providing an estimated total cost for projected vest purchases for the upcoming grant period. For year 2017, the City of Milpitas was awarded \$5,630.70. For year 2018, the City of Milpitas was awarded \$13,309.73. For the upcoming 2019 grant, the City of Milpitas was awarded \$18,546.07 for bulletproof vest reimbursements. For example, under the

2018 BVP award, the Milpitas Police Department purchased twenty-two (22) bulletproof vests for \$23,477.11, and BVP reimbursed the City \$11,738.57 for those purchases.

The current cost for a bulletproof vest is approximately \$910.00, which includes one vest cover. The cost for two additional vest covers is approximately \$65 each for a total estimated price of \$130. The total estimated price for a new vest, including tax, with two vest covers is \$1,133.60; but that price could fluctuate based on protection rating and specific features by individual manufacturers.

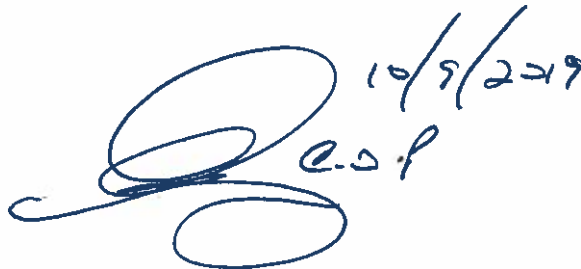
Based on current vacancies and replacement of expired ballistic vests, the Police Department anticipates purchasing approximately 32 bulletproof vests under the 2019 award. The approximate cost of those vests is \$37,092.14 and with the 50 percent BVP grant reimbursement, the City would recoup \$18,546.07 from this program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership does not financially impact the Police Department, as the City's matching funds are already itemized as a line item in the approved Police Department operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend the City of Milpitas accept the 2019 Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) grant and approve appropriation in the amount of \$18,546.07 into the Police Department's operating budget.

 10/9/2019
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