



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 11/22/2022

REQUESTER: City of Norman Police Department

PRESENTER: Ricky Jackson, Deputy Chief of Police

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2223-60: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, APPROPRIATING \$943,160 FROM THE SEIZURES AND RESTITUTION FUND BALANCE AND AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT TO BE USED DURING SPECIAL EVENTS, CRITICAL INCIDENTS, SEARCH & RESCUE EVENTS, AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR THE SWAT TEAM AND HAZARDOUS DEVICES UNIT AND DRUG AND CRIME EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY.

BACKGROUND:

Following recent events, Mayor Heikkila and Councilmembers Tortorello and Lynn asked that an agenda item be prepared to appropriate Seizure and Restitution funds to purchase identified needs that would improve the ability of the police department to respond to certain types of events. Over the years, the Police Department has been challenged with peacefully resolving several critical events that occurred in our community. The hostage situation at the Nextep building, the 60th Avenue NE gunfire incident, the recent North Porter incident, and multiple weather-related emergencies are a few examples. With the assistance of other public safety partners, the Department has risen to these challenges but it is becoming more difficult to do so. Public sentiment toward law enforcement has progressively become more aggressive and dangerous. Shortages in funding and staffing have become critical issues in delivering expedient service to our community. COVID and other unforeseen problems made it more challenging to identify funding within the City's budget to fund all public safety needs.

The mission of the Norman Police Department is to "maintain and enhance the quality of life in the City of Norman by protecting life, liberty, property, and keeping the peace." The Department's first priority is to protect and preserve the sanctity of life, both civilian and first responders. The Department must maintain readiness to respond to a variety of different events. We must protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to and recover from natural disasters and any other type of emergency incidents.

This Item is brought forward for an appropriation from the Seizure and Restitution Fund Balance and an authorization to purchase items 1-18 listed in the Discussion section to be used for public safety initiatives.

DISCUSSION:

A significant amount of our equipment inventory has become antiquated, outdated, and unreliable. These items are used in extremely dangerous and potentially violent situations. In these situations, command and control are crucial to the success and safety of citizens and officers.

For our agency to provide the level of service expected from our community, it is imperative that we purchase and train on items par with industry and federal standards. Identified equipment and training are listed below. The City Code (Section 8-204) requires competitive bidding for purchases of supplies, materials, or equipment with a value greater than \$50,000, unless specific exceptions apply. If the supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services can be purchased from a state contract, where bidding has already been conducted, competitive bidding and Council approval is not required, provided that Council has appropriated sufficient funds for such supplies, materials or equipment. Additionally, supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services which are sole source, i.e. can only be purchased from a single dealer, are exempt from competitive bidding. One item will require further action by Council as bid information is received and prepared for Council review; the other items that are over \$50,000 are either sole source or from a state contract as noted below. The following items can be purchased following an affirmative vote by Council tonight:

- 1) Four (4) E-bikes estimated at \$10,000;
- 2) Drones and related equipment estimated at \$38,000;
- 3) Protective tactical vests and helmets (x6 each) estimated at \$15,000;
- 4) One (1) portable X-ray machine estimated at \$40,000;
- 5) Tactical bomb tech tool kits (x4) estimated at \$22,000;
- 6) One (1) radiation detector estimated at \$20,000;
- 7) One (1) all-terrain HDU robot (small) estimated at \$60,000;
- 8) Negotiations communication equipment estimated at \$25,000;
- 9) Door breaching equipment estimated at \$23,000;
- 10) Large venue security equipment estimated at \$11,000;
- 11) Simunition kits (x16) estimated at \$12,500;
- 12) Gas masks (x16) and canisters (x32) estimated at \$13,000;
- 13) Ballistic shields and blankets (x2 each) estimated at \$20,000;
- 14) Aiming laser systems (x15) estimated at \$23,000;
- 15) One (1) Hazardous Devices Unit robot (primary large) from the ANDROS line of Remotec/Peroton at a cost of \$385,000. See attached sole source letter;
- 16) Two (2) bomb suits totaling \$75,000 manufactured by Med-Eng Holdings LLC. See attached sole source letter; and
- 17) Drug and crime education and community outreach estimated at \$100,000

The remaining items listed below are included in the appropriation dollar figure, but will require further Council action after Staff prepares bids in accordance with City Code.

18) Night vision equipment totaling \$50,660.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

As requested, Staff has prepared Resolution R-2223-60 for Council's consideration. Approval of Resolution R-2223-60 would appropriate \$943,160 from the Seizures and Restitutions Fund Balance (25-29000) and allocate it as follows:

- \$174,660 to 25660235-45120 (State Seizures Plant & Operating Equip-Crime Prevention); and
- \$668,500 to 25660235-45121 (State Seizures Plant & Operating Equip-Safety Equipment).
- \$100,000 to 25660235-44604 (State Seizures Plant & Operating Workshops and Seminars).

RECOMMENDATION #2:

If Council approves Resolution R-2223-60, Staff asks that Council authorize the purchase of items 1 – 17 above.