



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-2223-68. A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, APPROPRIATING \$353,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND BALANCE FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN ARMORED ALL-PURPOSE RESCUE "BEARCAT" VEHICLE AND THE ASSOCIATED TRAINING.

BACKGROUND:

Following recent events, Mayor Heikkila and Councilmembers Tortorello and Lynn asked that an agenda item be prepared to appropriate funds to purchase an armored all-purpose rescue "Bearcat" vehicle for the Police Department to respond to emergency situations.

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.

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.

DISCUSSION:

Dynamic and violent encounters are becoming more prevalent across the country. Our community is not exempt from these acts of violence. We must be prepared to provide the level of protection that our community deserves. In the past two years we have had four incidents resulting in more than a dozen officers being shot at.

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. 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.

The following items can be purchased following an affirmative vote by Council tonight:

- 1) One (1) armored all-purpose rescue "BearCat" vehicle from Lenco Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$333,000. This particular rescue vehicle from Lenco is on the state contract in Oklahoma.
- 2) Training expenses (x4) totaling \$20,000 associated with the purchase of the all-purpose rescue vehicle's operation,

RECOMMENDATION #1:

As requested, Staff has prepared Resolution R-2223-68 for Council's consideration. Approval of Resolution R-2223-68 would appropriate \$353,000 from the General Fund Balance (10-29000) and allocate it as follows:

- \$333,000 to 25660235-45003 (Equipment-Trucks & Vans); and
- \$ 20,000 to 25660235-45121 (Operating Equip-Crime Prevention).

RECOMMENDATION #2:

If Council approves Resolution R-2223-68, Staff asks that Council authorize the purchase of items listed above.