



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 11/15/2022

**REQUESTER:** City of Norman Police Department

**PRESENTER:** Ricky Jackson, Deputy Chief of Police

**ITEM TITLE:** A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$1,139,088 FROM THE SEIZURES AND RESTITUTION FUND BALANCE FOR 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.

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### **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 Bavinger House gunfire 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A significant amount of our equipment inventory has become antiquated, outdated, and unreliable.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) 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,
- 3) Four (4) E-bikes totaling \$10,000,
- 4) Drones and related equipment totaling \$37,703,
- 5) Protective tactical vests and helmets (x6 each) totaling \$15,000,
- 6) One (1) portable X-ray machine totaling \$40,000,
- 7) Tactical bomb tech tool kits (x4) totaling \$20,000,
- 8) One (1) radiation detector in the amount of \$20,000,
- 9) One (1) all-terrain HDU robot (small) in the amount of \$32,000,
- 10) Negotiations communication equipment totaling \$21,030,
- 11) Door breaching equipment totaling \$22,195,
- 12) Large venue security equipment totaling \$7,000,
- 13) Simunition kits (x16) totaling \$12,500,
- 14) Gas masks (x16) and canisters (x32) totaling \$13,000,
- 15) Ballistic shields and blankets (x2 each) totaling \$20,000,
- 16) Aiming laser systems (x15) totaling \$20,000,
- 17) One (1) Hazardous Devices Unit robot (primary large) from the ANDROS line of Remotec/Peroton at a cost of \$375,000. See attached sole source letter.
- 18) Two (2) bomb suits totaling \$70,000 manufactured by Med-Eng Holdings LLC. See attached sole source letter.
- 19) Night vision equipment totaling \$50,660.