

Date: 08/15/2019

To: Chief Brooks / Dep. Chief Kendrick / Capt. Eckelson / City Manager

From: Sgt. Jake Brink

Reference: 2019-2020 SWAT Team Needs

Gentlemen,

I am writing this document to inform you of the needs of the SWAT Team for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. I would also like to take this time to thank all of those involved in the approval of the latest equipment purchased for the SWAT Team, such as the new ballistic helmets and communication equipment. These two items were recently purchased and they have already been put to use on real life operations in the execution of search warrant(s) on persons involved in criminal activity in our community. During the performance of our duties the members of the SWAT Team found themselves to be better protected and equipped than they ever have been before. So again, we thank you.

With that being said, it has come to my attention that the current ballistic armor (vests) that the SWAT Team is using has recently passed the five-year mark. Which means that this armor is now no longer under warranty from the manufacturer, nor does the armor carry with it the confidence from the manufacturer to be as effective in protecting the wearer from gunfire. (The expiration date of our current armor was in January of this year).

Therefore, I have been in contact with representatives with ballistic armor companies trying to find a suitable replacement. I met with a representative of one company (GT Distributors) whose armor is far superior to what we are presently accustomed to. This armor is much thinner than what we have ever seen before, but still meets or exceeds the ballistic requirements set forth to be deemed Level IIIA. The armor is also a great deal lighter, over 50% lighter than our present armor. This keeps the carrier from expending more energy while wearing the armor and also takes a large amount of strain off the back, hips, and knees of the individual(s) wearing the armor, especially during long deployments. This would put the SWAT officers at an advantage in being able to better protect themselves during threatening situations and minimize the potential of injury caused by fatigue. The rifle plates offered from this company also last ten (10) years. That is double the amount of time that our current rifle plates last.

The price of this armor is also comparable to the amount spent on the last ballistic vests five years ago. This is hard to believe when you factor in the advantages of the new armor,

along with five years worth of inflation. Some of the other companies making armor also make a very high-quality armor as well, although, their prices are much higher. The team will need to obtain ten (10) ballistic vests in order to outfit all of the SWAT Team members.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your time and consideration into this matter.

Respectfully,

*Sgt. Jake Brink*

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*Day Shift Sergeant*

*SWAT Team Quartermaster*

*SWAT Team Entry Officer*

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