



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 21, 2006

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE 2006-07 COPS/SUPPLEMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF 100 TASERS

DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2006

FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT / FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: RON SMITH, FIELD OPERATIONS CAPTAIN

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: RON SMITH 714-754-5394

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Police Department staff's recommendation to allocate the Citizen's Options for Public Safety/Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (COPS/SLESF) monies for the purchase of 100 TASERS.

Approve the attached budget adjustment BA #07-041 for \$55,442 to increase estimated revenues after receipt of actual allocation and for \$100,000 to appropriate available fund balance in the COPS/SLESF fund for the purchase of 100 TASERS.

BACKGROUND:

At the City Council meeting of September 5, 2006, Police Department staff presented recommendations regarding the allocation of the Citizen's Options for Public Safety/Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (COPS/SLESF). Part of the discussion under Public Hearing focused on the 10 TASERS approved for acquisition. During this discussion, Councilmember Linda Dixon directed that Police Department staff submit a proposal regarding the acquisition of additional TASERS. This item is the proposal in response to Councilmember Dixon's direction to staff.

ANALYSIS:

The TASER is a less lethal weapon which uses an electrical impulse designed to cause the incapacitation of a combative suspect. The TASER can either fire two probes attached to wires to conduct the electrical impulse or can be used in direct contact with the suspect producing the same effect. Its deployment is dictated by the use of force policy specific to the TASER as stated in the Costa Mesa Police Manual. The policy delineates when the TASER should and should not be used, who may use it, and what procedures must be followed subsequent to its use. Officers must receive certified training prior to being authorized to carry or use the TASER. During the last two years since the TASER was first authorized, it has been used in a total of four incidents. In all four incidents, the TASER was effective and proved to be a better alternative to other less lethal options such as batons, pepper spray, or rubber bullets. The TASER is not intended to replace any of

these other less lethal options nor is it intended to replace the deadly force option of the firearm; each incident is different and calls for a different use of force tool to be effective. Various law enforcement agencies throughout the nation have indicated a range of benefits from the use of the TASER including a decrease in the following: injuries to suspects, injuries to officers, officer involved shootings, citizen complaints, and liability claims.

The effectiveness of the TASER hinges in large part on the immediate availability of a TASER at the scene of a volatile incident. It is recommended that as many officers as possible carry the TASER with them to ensure that a TASER can be used without delay. Therefore, it is proposed to purchase 100 additional TASERS to equip all first-line responders who may be confronted by a situation in which the TASER is the effective option.

The cost per unit of a TASER is approximately \$1,000 including the TASER itself, holster, lithium battery, and the probes.

See attached memorandum entitled Proposal to Acquire Additional TASERS for more information on the description, policy, training, previous incidents, benefits, limitations, costs, current availability, and recommended proposals regarding the TASER.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The above mentioned memorandum discusses alternative proposals of purchasing less than 100 TASERS. The drawbacks to purchasing fewer than 100 TASERS are discussed in this memorandum. See attached.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The adopted budget for fiscal year 2006-2007 projected a remaining available fund balance in the amount of \$119,119. On October 19, 2006 the City received actual funding from the State of California for the COPS/SLESF Fund in the amount of \$220,542, which is \$55,442 more than originally anticipated. With the increase in revenues, there is sufficient available fund balance for the increase in appropriation of \$100,000 for the purchase of 100 TASERS.

The attached budget adjustment BA #07-041 increases estimated revenues in the amount of \$55,442 and appropriates \$100,000 from available fund balance in the COPS/SLESF fund for the purchase of 100 TASERS as listed in the "Recommendation" section of this document.

LEGAL REVIEW:

Not required on this item.

CONCLUSION:

Based upon the criteria outlined in the Citizen's Option for Public Safety/Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund, staff recommends that the fiscal year 2006-2007 allocation of funds be used for the purposes presented.

STEVEN H. STAVELEY
Chief of Police

RON SMITH
Field Operations Captain

MARC R. PUCKETT
Director of Finance

Attachment 1: [Budget Adjustment #07-041](#)
Attachment 2: [Memorandum entitled Proposal to Acquire Additional TASERS](#)

2006-07 COPS/SLESF FUND