



Agenda Item: 14.1
Date of Meeting: October 23, 2023
Department: Police

STAFF REPORT

To: City Council
From: Nate Derr
Subject: **Replacement of Aging Armored Vehicle**
Prepared On: October 3, 2023

Background/History:

The Police Department currently owns and operates a 1993 converted bank truck used for high-risk tactical and rescue operations through-out Inyo and Mono Counties. This vital piece of equipment is beginning to fail and add additional maintenance costs, due to it's age. In an emergency situation (flood, fire, active shooter, barricaded suspect) our Officer's need a capable/ reliable response vehicle.

There are multiple Departments in the State willing to donate their used armored vehicle to the Bishop Police Department, which are 20 years newer than our current vehicle.

Analysis/Discussion:

PROOF OF LIFE

Armored Vehicles are designed to protect the lives of victims, officers and even suspects. Here are but a few of the many examples of this "proof of life" which are ignored by the critics. February 16, 2006: The Dallas SWAT team was attempting to serve a federal warrant on a suspect when he shot four officers. Tactical team members maneuvered the Armored Vehicle to allow for the safe rescue from the deadly environment and treatment of the wounded officers.

March 31, 2009: In the woods of central Wisconsin, a suspect sniped at police from his home, which he had turned into an armored fortress. In the days that followed, the sniper continually tried to kill officers by firing countless rounds and throwing homemade firebombs from his up-armored domicile.

At the climax of this event, officers – protected by multiple Armored Vehicles – took the suspect into custody after hitting him with less lethal munitions as the armed suspect was escaping down a ladder to the rear of his burning home. No officers were injured.

February 2, 2011: The Aurora (Colo.) area was inundated with 20 inches of snow. Wind gusts formed drifts of up to ten feet deep, making roads impassable. During this crisis, motorists found themselves trapped by the Arctic conditions – with hope for rescue dropping as fast as the temperature. When all seemed lost, the trapped motorists heard the roar of an engine and saw a black mass of metal cutting a swath through the white landscape. Police officers in a Armored Vehicle were able to rescue 108 stranded motorists. The cold hard metal on wheels

provided the two things these people were praying for: warmth and a ride home.

March 31 2011: The San Juan County Sheriff's Office SWAT team deployed in Farmington (N.M.) in response to a barricaded gunman. During the event, the suspect leaned across the team's Armored Vehicle and pointed a semi-automatic rifle at three officers inside the vehicle. Rather than shoot the suspect, officers fired a Taser through the gun port of the vehicle and took the man into custody. This less-than-lethal option was feasible only because of the tactical flexibility afforded by the Armored Vehicle.

August 7, 2011: Green Bay (Wis.) officers located a man who had been firing a gun throughout a residential neighborhood. The suspect opened fire on the officers, but the officers were able to negotiate with him from the cover afforded by their Armored Vehicle.

After a seven-hour stand-off, the shooter was subdued with less-lethal munitions.

September 20, 2011: In Hockington (Wash.), Clark County Sheriff's Deputies arrived on scene to deal with a man who had been shooting at a house as he sat in a tree. Negotiators were transported close enough to speak with the man via the agency's Armored Vehicle. After three hours of successful negotiations, the troubled man climbed down from his perch and surrendered.

March 6, 2012: In Harrisonburg (Penn.), the York County Quick Response Team and the Dauphin County Sheriff's Office deployed at the scene of a barricaded gunman. The Armored Vehicle was moved into a position where officers were able to push in two windows.

The man was taken into custody after he was shot with less-lethal munitions.

April 14, 2013: The Rutheford County (Tenn.) Sheriff's SWAT team was able to evacuate a neighborhood in Smyrna after a barricaded suspect opened fire, endangering all. One disabled resident was safely removed from the kill zone. Officers then saved the suspect from his own death by subduing him with less-lethal munitions.

December 9, 2013: A suspect opened fire in a neighborhood with a 50 caliber rifle – endangering citizens far and wide. Fond Du Lac (Wis.) officers were able to use a Armored Vehicle to evacuate innocents from the kill zone and set up for negotiations. Negotiators convinced the suspects to surrender without loss of life.

March 14, 2014: A suspect opened fire throughout a neighborhood and specifically at officers inside their Armored Vehicle. Officers of the Bakersfield PD SWAT team were able to rescue and evacuate 60 citizens in the line of fire.

January 31, 2014: In Laingsburg (Mich.), a gunman shot wildly into a neighborhood. When the Michigan SP Emergency Support Team arrived, the suspect deliberately shot four rounds from a Russian-made Nagant – a 7.62X54 rifle – striking an occupied Armored Vehicle. No officers were injured.

June 2, 2014: In Williston (Fla.), the Marion County SWAT team responded to an armed and violent man. They were protected by their Armored Vehicle as the suspect fired 20 rounds from an SKS rifle at the vehicle.

August 21, 2014: In Dickinson (N.D.), the Southwest Tactical Unit was attempting to apprehend a fugitive wanted by the FBI. Members of the unit along with a negotiator pulled into a driveway. The spectacle of the Armored Vehicle inspired the suspect's surrender within one minute of its arrival.

CONCLUSION

Police today must absorb the critique of the sharp-tongued pseudo-experts and yet hit the streets each day bound and determined to do some good. It is essential that police officers are afforded the protective armor Armored Vehicles provide – using this essential equipment has become a common tactic because it is common sense.

Economic Impacts:

No negative economic impacts. Vehicle would be donated by a larger Department within the

state at little to no cost to the City.

Budget Impacts:

Cost savings, by replacing outdated failing equipment.

Legal Review:

City Attorney Pucci has reviewed this item and finds that the recommended action complies with the law.

Recommended Action:

Approve the replacement of an aging vehicle with a newer donated vehicle from a larger City.

Approved By: Ethan Aukee / 10/11/2023

Approved By: Robin Picken, 10/12/2023

Approved By: Nora Gamino 10/17/2023

Approved By: