

Agenda item #15

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager

FROM: William P. McManus, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Authorizing the expenditure of \$30,325 for the replacement of ballistic vests for the Police Department

DATE: June 29, 2006

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An ordinance authorizing the expenditure of \$30,325.00 for the replacement of ballistic vests for the San Antonio Police Department; and ratifying the settlement with Armor Holdings, Inc.

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ballistic vests for Department personnel are selected based on a number of criteria ranging from comfort to ballistic protection. In the past five years the Department has purchased a number of vests containing a new ballistic material called Zylon. On August 24, 2005, the U.S. Department of Justice, through the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), released a report which decertified all bullet resistant vest models containing any amount of Zylon due to the degradation of the material over a period of time. It has been determined that this degradation significantly reduces the ballistic protection/integrity of the vests in question. Consequently the San Antonio Police Department is currently in the process of replacing all of its ballistic vests that contain the material Zylon.

Based on class action lawsuits brought against one of the vest manufactures, Armor Holdings, Inc. (AHI), a settlement has been reached. This settlement will allow the SAPD to exchange its AHI vests containing Zylon for a voucher in the amount of \$620 per vest. This voucher can then be utilized to purchase a replacement vest. The replacement vests' cost is quoted at \$680.65. Therefore the Department will have to pay \$60.65 per replacement vest. It is estimated that 500 vests will be affected under this replacement program with AHI.

There is one other company, Point Blank Body Armor, Inc., that provided ballistic vests containing Zylon to the Department. A settlement with this company is pending resolution of how the replacement will take place.

POLICY ANALYSIS

The Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of San Antonio and the San Antonio Police Officers Association Article 10, Section 5, requires that all officers be provided with a protective vest.

FISCAL IMPACT

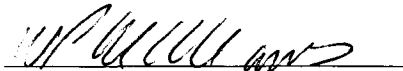
This portion of the vest replacement program is estimated to total \$30,325.00 This expenditure will be absorbed in the Department's FY 2006 General Fund Budget.

COORDINATION


This ordinance request has been coordinated with Finance, City Attorney's Office, and the Office of Management & Budget.

SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

The Discretionary Contracts Disclosure Form is not required.


William P. McManus
Chief of Police

Approved for Council Consideration:


Sheryl Sculley
City Manager