

Information Item

Date: June 10, 2019

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: William L. Mayo, Fire Chief

Subject: Information on an increase in active assailant attacks and subsequent risk to firefighters. As a result, the Piedmont Regional Trauma System (PRTS) is offering a grant to assist in the purchase of ballistic protective gear for the Winston-Salem Fire Department.

Strategic Focus Area: Safe and Secure Community

Strategic Objective: Improve Public Safety Service Quality

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



There has been a steady increase in active assailant attacks in the U.S., and from 2000 to 2017, there were 250 incidents, leaving 1,418 individuals wounded and 799 dead. Fire and EMS personnel respond in concert with law enforcement to these types of incidents and, thus, are subject to a similar risk. The National Fire Protection Association's 3000 *Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response Program* recommends various actions for fire departments to take, including a needs analysis for body armor defined as ballistic protective vests (BPV)/helmets/tourniquets.

Level III BPVs are designed to be lightweight without causing undue restrictions to mobility and are capable of stopping high-velocity and heavy-caliber, long-barreled handgun projectiles. The cost per set of BPVs and helmets is \$700 and WSFD would require 140 sets to outfit an on-duty complement of fire personnel. The total cost is \$98,000.

At its meeting on March 19, PRTS voted to match up to \$50,000 in funding to provide BPVs and helmets to the Winston-Salem Fire Department. The Fire Department will bring an item back to the Public Safety Committee and City Council requesting matching City funds in the amount of \$49,000.