

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: December 9, 2019

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

From: Damon Dequenne, Assistant City Manager
William L. Mayo, Fire Chief

Council Action Requested:

Resolution Awarding Purchase Order for Ballistic Protective Vests and Helmets

Strategic Focus Area: Safe and Secure Community

Strategic Objective: Improve Public Safety Service Quality

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

Information was presented to the Public Safety Committee in June, 2019, explaining that active assailant attacks in the U.S. have steadily increased in recent years. The Winston-Salem Fire Department (WSFD) and EMS personnel respond in concert with law enforcement to these types of incidents and, thus, are subject to similar risk.

Taking steps to protect staff is in the best interest of the City; therefore, WSFD has requested the purchase of 144 sets of ballistic protection vests and helmets which will put one set in each seated position on all fire apparatus. The vests and helmets would enable personnel to operate safer on calls involving violence by providing ballistic protection and enable personnel to operate on a Rescue Task Force to increase survivability of victims involved in active assailant situations. This will also allow the department to operate under best practices as recommended by FEMA/DHS, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, and the NC Active Assailant/Active Shooter White Paper for Integrated Public Safety Response dated October 21, 2016 and NFPA 3000.

After extensive research and testing of several vests and helmets, the Level IIIA ballistic protective gear was selected by the department. Level IIIA ballistic protective vests (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.

Committee Action:

Committee	Finance 12/9/19	Action	Approval
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For	Unanimous	Against	
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Remarks:

After receiving bids, the State of North Carolina awarded term contract NC680C to Point Blank Enterprises, Inc. for armor ballistic vests. Read's Uniforms, Inc., located in Asheville, NC, and the authorized distributor for the Level IIIA Point Blank brand in the State of North Carolina has submitted quotation 33400-99 for the purchase of 144 vests and helmets at the cost of \$787 per set for total amount of \$113,328.

Funds for this purchase are available through a grant in the amount of \$49,000 from the Piedmont Regional Trauma System and WSFD FY 2019-20 operating budget; therefore, it is recommended that a purchase order for 144 vests and helmets at the cost of \$787 per set for total amount of \$113,328 per quotation 33400-99 be awarded to Read's Uniforms, Inc. This recommendation is in accordance with N.C.G.S 143-129(e)(9): "The [bidding] requirements of this article do not apply to...Purchases from contracts established by the State or any agency of the State, if the contractor is willing to extend to a political subdivision of the State the same or more favorable prices, terms, or conditions as established in the State contract."

M/WBE comment: Read's Uniforms, Inc. is the authorized distributor for this purchase.

Workforce Demographics: See Exhibit A