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DEPARTMENT OF  
POLICE

ARTURO VENEGAS, JR.  
CHIEF OF POLICE

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

900 - 8TH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95814-2506

PH 916-264-5121  
FAX 916-448-4620  
E-MAIL  
spdcgau@quiknet.com  
http://  
www.quiknet.com/spd/

May 2, 2000

City Council  
Sacramento, California 95814

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT:** Accept the Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) California Law Enforcement Technology Equipment Purchase Program Grant Award for \$468,640 and Request to Suspend Formal Competitive Bidding for the Purchase of 548 Tasers

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:** City-wide

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt the attached resolution to:

- Accept the State of California grant award of \$468,640 under OCJP California Law Enforcement Technology Equipment Purchase (CLETEP) program.
- Augment the Police Department's Grant Operating Budget in the amount of \$468,640.
- Suspend formal competitive bidding for the purchase of 548 tasers, and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary purchase of tasers from Taser International in an amount not to exceed \$230,000.

**CONTACT PERSON(S):** Lieutenant Jim Maccoun, 277-6069  
David Paul, Economic Development, 264-7216

**FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF:** May 9, 2000

**SUMMARY:**

The Sacramento City Council approved a request to apply for this grant through OCJP on March 14, 2000. The Sacramento Police Department recently received award notification from OCJP in the amount of \$468,640 for technology equipment purchases through the CLETEP program. The grant covers equipment purchased between May 1, 2000 and October 31, 2000. No City match is required.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:**

There was no Committee/Commission action required for this report.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Sacramento Police Department requested funding from OCJP through the CLETEP program for technology equipment. The purpose is to enhance the Police Department's ability to apprehend suspects, to minimize response time in emergency situations, and to provide evidence in court cases. Funds will be used for a variety of equipment, including, but not limited to:

- **Tasers** – Referred to as “less-than-lethal force,” tasers will be provided for all Sacramento police officers through grant funds. Tasers provide police officers with an enhanced ability to defuse potentially dangerous confrontations, thereby reducing or preventing the need to resort to deadly force. They are effective up to a 21-foot range. The deployment of tasers by only supervisors currently delays getting this valuable tool to the scene.

The Police Department currently uses the “Tasertron” taser. After research and testing, the Police Department recommends the Taser International “Air Taser M-26” brand tasers over Tasertron models. Taser International and Tasertron are the only taser manufacturer companies that are exclusively available to law enforcement.

The request to suspend formal competitive bidding is based upon the following advantages Taser International has over Tasertron:

- An automatic five-second-discharge cycle for failsafe deployment.
- Lifetime warranty and part replacement.
- Waterproof and shock resistance.

- Off-the-shelf batteries are less expensive than re-chargeable batteries.
  - Taser International will provide expert testimony at no cost to the agency.
  - The Air Taser M-26 is not classified by ATF as a firearm.
  - The Air Taser does not disperse lead or hazardous chemicals.
  - Taser shootings can be traced to a particular officer.
  - Air Taser will provide a free taser in return for each Tasertron.
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- **Helicopter down linking** – Purchase would provide all field supervisors with the ability to receive helicopter down link images, thus enhancing the supervisors' abilities to control officer response in pursuits and critical incidents. The down linking equipment includes ten suitcase receivers with a two-mile range and one two by four-foot dish that serves as a mobile command post receiving site with a 30 to 40 mile range.
  - **Infrared telescopic camera kit** – This will be purchased for the detection of suspects in areas otherwise inaccessible and will be chiefly used by SWAT. The use of this camera will reduce the chance for injury to police officers in life threatening situations.
  - **Motorcycle cameras** – Three motorcycle cameras will be purchased from Semco. Motorcycle cameras act as an independent witness, minimize court time by police officers testifying to motorcycle stops, and improve conviction rates. The Police Department plans to work with Semco to design and test a system for cameras on motorcycles. 8-mm playback units will also be purchased for tape play back.
  - **In-car cameras** – Additional in-car cameras will be purchased, complementing the existing in-car camera fleet.

Staff recommends that the City Council suspend formal competitive bidding for the purchase of tasers and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary purchase from Taser International in a total amount not to exceed \$230,000. Purchases of the other equipment covered by the grant will be within the City Manager's authority, and standard procurement procedures will be used.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The maximum grant amount awarded to the Sacramento Police Department is \$468,640. Funds will be used for the purchase of:

- Helicopter camera equipment;
- Tasers;
- Motorcycle cameras;
- In-car cameras;
- Infrared telescopic camera kits.

As noted above, the purchase of tasers from Taser International will not exceed \$230,000. Contracts for all other equipment obtained from this grant will be for amounts less than \$100,000, thus falling within the City Manager's contracting authority.

Additional personnel will not be funded through this grant. A monetary match from the City is not required. Purchases must be made during the grant period of May 1, 2000 through October 31, 2000. The final two months of the grant period will be dedicated to closing out the grant.

Associated supply costs are included in this grant program and were considered in the development of this grant proposal. It is anticipated that annual operating costs will be approximately \$11,000 per year. The Police Department will make every effort to utilize funds within its existing budget.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Ongoing administrative and maintenance activities, such as purchases of supplies, equipment or materials which are not made for purposes of a public works construction project, do not constitute a "project" and are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(1), and 15378(b)(3).

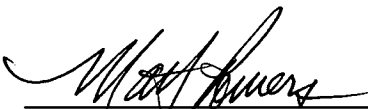
#### **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:**

Approval to apply for and accept funding is consistent with past practices. Acceptance of these funds will allow the Police Department to enhance its public safety procedures. The recommendation to suspend formal competitive bidding is in accordance with the provisions of City Code Section 57.04.401©, which authorizes suspension of formal competitive bidding upon a two-thirds vote of the City Council.


**ESBD/SBE CONSIDERATIONS:**

Taser International is not a certified emerging/small business enterprise. Purchase of the other equipment for this grant will be made in accordance to the City's Emerging and Small Business Development program requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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ARTURO VENEGAS, JR.  
CHIEF OF POLICE

**RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:**

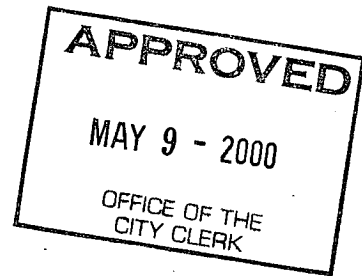
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT P. THOMAS  
CITY MANAGER

AV:dp  
Ref: 4-30

*Amended*  
**RESOLUTION NO. 2000-215**

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON THE DATE OF MAY 9, 2000



RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT A \$468,640 AWARD FROM THE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING (OCJP) TO FUND THE CALIFORNIA LAW ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT PURCHASE (CLETEP) PROGRAM AND SUSPEND FORMAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF 548 TASERS

WHEREAS the City of Sacramento desires to undertake the California Law Enforcement Technology Equipment Purchase program funded through a grant in the amount of \$468,640 through the State of California Office of Criminal Justice Planning;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the City of Sacramento hereby assures and certifies compliance with all State statutes, regulations, policies, guidelines and requirements that govern application, acceptance, and use of State funds for this state assisted project.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by the Sacramento City Council that:

1. The City Manager of the City of Sacramento, or designated representative, is authorized on behalf of the City of Sacramento, to execute a grant award in the amount of \$468,640, including any extensions or amendments thereof, to implement the California Law Enforcement Technology Equipment Program.
2. The Grant Operating Budget (255-OGR-GXXX-4XXX) will be increased by \$468,640.
3. The Grant Revenue Budget (255-OGR-GXXX) will be increased by \$468,640.

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FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

4. In the best interest of the City of Sacramento, formal competitive bidding is hereby suspended for the purchase of tasers funded under the CLETEP program. There are only two taser manufacturers that are exclusively available to law enforcement. The request to suspend formal competitive bidding is based upon the following advantages Taser International has over other taser manufacturer:

- a) An automatic five-second-discharge cycle for failsafe deployment.
- b) Lifetime warranty and part replacement.
- c) Waterproof and shock resistance.
- d) Off-the-shelf batteries are less expensive than re-chargeable batteries.
- e) Taser International will provide expert testimony at no cost to the agency.
- f) The Air Taser M-26 is not classified by ATF as a firearm.
- g) The Air Taser does not disperse lead or hazardous chemicals.
- h) Taser shootings can be traced to a particular officer through a computer chip that logs each time a gun was used and the duration of each use.
- i) Air Taser will provide a free taser in return for each Tasertron.

5. The City Manager is authorized to execute the necessary purchase of tasers from Taser International in a total amount not to exceed \$230,000.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK

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2. The Grant Operating Budget (255-OGR-GXXX-4XXX) will be increased by \$468,640.
3. The Grant Revenue Budget (255-OGR-GXXX) will be increased by \$468,640.
4. In the best interest of the City of Sacramento, formal competitive bidding is hereby suspended for the purchase of tasers funded under the CLETEP program.

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5. The City Manager is authorized to execute the necessary purchase of tasers from Taser International in a total amount not to exceed \$230,000.

ATTEST:

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MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

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