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CITY OF SACRAMENTO

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
HALL OF JUSTICE
813 - 6TH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
TELEPHONE (916) 449-5121

JOHN P. KEARNS
CHIEF OF POLICE

April 11, 1986

Budget & Finance Committee
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session

SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF NEW HANDGUNS (Smith & Wesson Model 686) AND
AUTHORIZATION OF .357 AMMUNITION

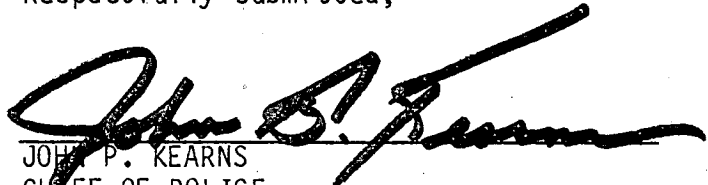
SUMMARY

Attached for your consideration and approval is a letter to the City Council requesting authorization to purchase new handguns and alternate issue .357 caliber ammunition. The cost of replacing the handguns and holsters is \$181,728. Resale of the present inventory of handguns will reduce the net cost of replacement to approximately \$135,228.

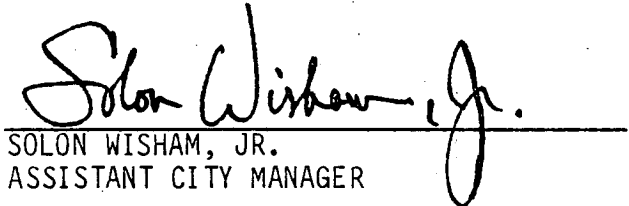
RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that replacement of the handguns and authorization of .357 ammunition, as an alternate issue round, be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

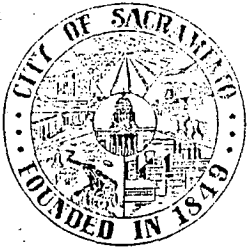

JOHN P. KEARNS
CHIEF OF POLICE

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:


SOLON WISHAM, JR.
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

JPK:ket
REF: 4-30

Attachment



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DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

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813 - 6TH STREET

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

TELEPHONE (916) 449-5121

JOHN P. KEARNS
CHIEF OF POLICE

April 11, 1986

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF NEW HANDGUNS AND AUTHORIZATION
OF .357 AMMUNITION

SUMMARY

The Police Department is requesting approval to replace the current department issue handgun and make available, as alternate issue, .357 caliber ammunition for use on duty. Recent officer-involved shooting incidents have caused a loss of confidence in the incapacitation capability of the present ammunition. The Police Department is committed to providing its officers with equipment that will reduce the ability of a suspect to injure an officer once the equipment has been utilized. Extensive testing of handguns and ammunition was conducted. The handgun selected is the Smith & Wesson brand, Model 686, .357 caliber revolver. The proposed ammunition, manufactured by Winchester-Western, is a .357 magnum, 145 grain, silver-tip hollow point (STHP) round. The cost of purchasing the handguns and required holsters is \$181,728. Resale of present issue revolvers will reduce the net cost of replacement to approximately \$135,228.

BACKGROUND

During the last 14 months, Sacramento Police Officers have been involved in 15 shooting incidents. Six officers were wounded, two critically. In three of the incidents, the suspect was fatally wounded. In six other cases the suspect was wounded, but not disabled. In one case the suspect exchanged gunfire with officers and although he received five wounds he was able to retreat into his residence. Another suspect, wounded in the side, was able to flee and had to be tracked by the canine team before being taken into custody. In the most recent case, the suspect was shot after shooting an officer. The suspect not only evaded capture for approximately one hour, but fired two shots at pursuing officers as he drove through a residential area. A loss of confidence in the present ammunition has occurred as a result of the recent shooting incidents. Although the ammunition has ballistically sound characteristics, it has not consistently incapacitated suspects.

In an effort to increase the margin of safety for officers, and still maintain appropriate safety levels for the innocent bystander/citizenry, the Police Department began testing and evaluating the present ammunition and other weapons and ammunition. The present ammunition, Federal brand, .38 caliber, 110 grain +P+, semi-jacketed hollow point, has been in use since 1979. It was chosen based, in part, on the bullet's velocity, amount of penetration and expansion on impact, ricochet potential and transferred energy. It is still our opinion that the Federal round is an excellent round and we will continue issuing it to officers for duty use. However, independent studies and departmental tests indicate that the proposed round, the Winchester-Western .357 magnum, 145 grain silver tip hollow point, is ballistically superior to the Federal round, while maintaining the same margins of safety for the public. The Winchester-Western round has nearly twice the muzzle energy of the Federal round. Additionally, the proposed round contains a flame retardant in the gun powder which lessens muzzle flash, a critical factor during night-time shooting. The round is well within safe penetration levels (8"-12") recommended by Southwest Institute of Forensic Sciences of Dallas, Texas. It flattens on impact reducing the chance of ricochet. Most importantly, the proposed bullet increases the probability of instantaneous incapacitation with fewer shots and decreases the possibility of an armed assailant returning fire and wounding officers or citizens. Officers who qualify with the .357 round will have the option of carrying the round on duty. The authorized .38 caliber Federal round will continue to be carried by the other officers.

Many law enforcement agencies have already purchased "L" frame revolvers and authorized use of the Winchester-Western ammunition as an alternate issue round. Local agencies using the proposed ammunition include Sacramento Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the California Department of Justice. Major Bay Area agencies who have authorized use of the proposed round include the San Francisco and Oakland Police Departments.

The proposed change in handguns is necessary to accommodate the .357 caliber ammunition. The Smith & Wesson Model 686, "L" frame revolver is an excellent quality weapon that is well-balanced and heavier than the Smith & Wesson Model 15 presently being issued. The Smith & Wesson Model 686 was specifically engineered for use with high velocity ammunition. Its heavier barrel, cylinder and frame withstand continued use of high velocity ammunitions without ill effects. Since the Model 686 will accommodate both the .357 magnum and the .38 caliber ammunition, exchange of ammunition in the field is possible should the need arise. Since the Model 15 accommodates only .38 caliber ammunition, retaining the Model 15's for those officers who will continue carrying .38 caliber ammunition is not recommended.

FINANCIAL DATA

The funds for revolver conversion have been requested in the 1986/87 budget. The Department wishes to purchase the equipment as soon as the budget is

implemented. Therefore, approval of this project is requested now to provide adequate time for review by Council and the Request for Proposal/bid process.

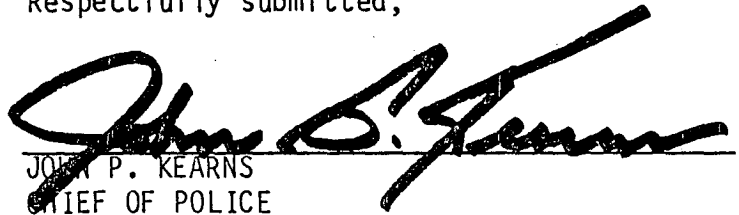
The financial impact of purchasing the Smith & Wesson Model 686 revolver is based on the purchase of 600 revolvers at a unit cost of \$262.88. The total cost for revolvers will be \$157,728. An additional cost associated with revolver conversion is the cost of holsters. The cost for new holsters will be approximately \$24,000 (\$21,500 for 470 uniform holsters and \$2,500 for 130 plainclothes holsters). The acquisition of the alternate issue .357 magnum ammunition does not pose any significant change in expenditure from current levels. The total cost for upgrading the Department revolvers is \$181,728.

The estimated resale value of the present inventory of Model 15 revolvers is approximately \$46,500, or \$75.00 per gun. This figure represents a low-end resale value for the revolvers and depends upon the condition of the individual weapon. Sale of the present inventory will make the estimated net cost for revolver and holster conversion \$135,228.

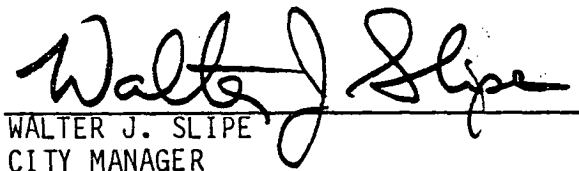
RECOMMENDATION

The duties of a police officer are inherently dangerous and require that the employer provide the officer with the most effective safety equipment possible. The officer must have confidence that his firearm and ammunition will incapacitate an assailant with a minimum number of shots fired. Likewise, the citizens of Sacramento must have confidence that the Police Department is using the best equipment to accomplish this goal without compromising the safety of innocent bystanders. It is therefore recommended that adoption of the Smith & Wesson Model 686, .357 caliber handgun and the Winchester-Western .357 magnum, 145 grain silver-tip hollow point bullet, as an alternate issue ammunition, be approved.

Respectfully submitted,


JOHN P. KEARNS
CHIEF OF POLICE

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:


WALTER J. SLIPE
CITY MANAGER

JPK:ket
REF: 4-20