

5



# CITY OF SACRAMENTO

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
HALL OF JUSTICE  
813 - 8TH STREET

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814  
TELEPHONE (916) 449-5121

JOHN P. KEARNS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

November 14, 1986

Budget & Finance Committee  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: WEAPON CONVERSION

### SUMMARY

The Police Department is requesting authorization to transfer \$50,000 from Capital Improvement Project EA36, Statewide Identification Network, and \$202,800 from General Fund Contingency for purchase of a new weapon system. One hundred seventy-two thousand eight hundred dollars (\$172,800), of the requested \$202,800 General Fund Contingency funds, was approved in April of 1986 for conversion to a .357 magnum weapon system. This amount was omitted in error from the 1986/87 Approved Budget.

The cost increase is necessary because the selection of weapon systems was changed due to safety considerations.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the attached letter be reviewed and referred to the full Council for approval.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JOHN P. KEARNS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

  
JACK R. CRIST  
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

JPK:ket  
REF: 11-10

November 25, 1986  
All Districts



# CITY OF SACRAMENTO

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
HALL OF JUSTICE  
813 8TH STREET

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814  
TELEPHONE (916) 449-5121

JOHN P. KEARNS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

November 14, 1986

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: WEAPON CONVERSION

## SUMMARY

In April, 1986, the Police Department received approval to convert to the use of a .357 magnum weapon system. Prior to purchasing this system, the Department became aware of malfunction problems prohibiting its implementation for safety reasons. No solution to the problem is expected utilizing current technology. The need for the Police Department to provide its officers with a weapon system more likely to incapacitate assailants is of high priority and cannot be set aside indefinitely. The Department, therefore, expanded its study of available handguns and ammunition suitable for duty use. After research and committee review, the weapon selected is the SIG-Sauer brand 9mm semi-automatic pistol. This pistol is presently carried by the Narcotics and S.W.A.T. sections of the Police Department.

The estimated gross cost of conversion to the SIG-Sauer, 9mm semi-automatic pistol is \$252,800 (leather goods, ammunition, and training costs for 550 officers). The estimated resale value of Sacramento Police Department revolvers is \$30,000, resulting in a net conversion cost of \$222,800.

The Police Department received approval to include \$172,800 in the 1986/87 Budget for the conversion to .357 magnum revolvers. This amount was omitted in error from the 1986/87 Approved Budget. It is recommended that \$172,800 be restored to the Police Department's budget from General Fund Contingency. The additional \$80,000 required to convert to the SIG-Sauer weapon system is recommended to be funded as follows: (1) \$50,000 from Capital Improvement Project EA36, Statewide Identification Network and (2) \$30,000 from General Fund Contingency.

BACKGROUND

In April, 1986 the Police Department presented a revolver conversion program to the City Council and received approval to purchase a .357 magnum revolver system. Funding was approved for \$172,800 to be included in the 1986/87 budget. This amount was omitted in error, by the Budget Office, from the 1986/87 Approved Budget. The Police Department elected to delay purchase of the weapon until September, 1986 in order to avail itself of a production run containing modifications to the weapon designed to enhance its durability. In August, the Police Department learned the weapon system is apparently subject to cylinder lock-up problems which render it incapable of firing. This situation prohibits implementation of the system for safety reasons. No suitable solution to the problem has been presented and none is expected utilizing current technology.

The need to provide Sacramento Police Officers with a weapon system more likely to incapacitate an assailant than the current issue has not diminished. Further research into available weapons and ammunition and developing trends in law enforcement weaponry was conducted by the Planning & Fiscal Section and presented to a committee of certified departmental rangemasters. After studying available options and considering the feasibility of the 9mm semi-automatic pistol, it was the unanimous opinion of these rangemasters that conversion to the 9mm system is a viable option to the previously selected weapon. The 9mm bullet, though not as powerful as the .357 magnum, is a significant improvement over the .38 special round currently issued. It is also an easier round to shoot than is the .357 magnum. We do not anticipate any failures to qualify with this round. A greater number of officers will therefore be afforded the opportunity to carry a superior weapon system.

The weapon selected is the SIG-Sauer 9mm semi-automatic pistol. The weapon is available with a magazine capacity of 8 or 15 rounds. Both models better equip officers to handle multiple suspect situations without being placed in a vulnerable position while reloading. This weapon has been carried by Sacramento Police Department Narcotics and S.W.A.T. officers since July, 1986. The weapon is also used by numerous law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. Research conducted by this Department disclosed no documented problems with the SIG-Sauer pistol, and none have been experienced by Sacramento police officers currently carrying the weapon.

Officers currently on the Department who do not wish to change to a semi-automatic pistol will have the option of retaining the currently authorized revolvers and .38 special ammunition. Officers hired in the future will not have the option to carry a revolver unless an acceptable .357 weapon system is developed in the future. Sacramento Police Reserve officers will continue to carry the presently authorized revolvers and ammunition.

#### FINANCIAL DATA

The SIG-Sauer semi-automatic pistol is more expensive than the .357 magnum revolver previously authorized. The Police Department proposes to purchase guns and leather goods (\$430/unit) to equip 550 officers, at a cost of approximately \$236,500. An additional \$16,300 is needed for the purchase of extra ammunition required to conduct training and qualification courses. The total gross cost for the conversion project is estimated to be \$252,800.

The Police Department estimates that it will have 400 surplus .38 special revolvers available for resale, once conversion has been completed. Various dealers estimate a minimum value of \$75 per gun, generating \$30,000. This amount is currently included in 1986/87 revenue estimates. The net cost of the conversion project will be approximately \$222,800.

The \$172,800 for conversion to the .357 magnum system, which was omitted in error from the Police Department 1986/87 budget, is recommended to be restored from General Fund Contingency. An additional \$80,000 is needed to fund the conversion to SIG-Sauer pistols.

The Police Department has identified \$50,000 in funds in Capital Improvement Project EA36, Statewide Identification Network, as a source of funding for the weapon conversion project. This money is available because the State of California subsequently passed legislation to provide partial funding the County of Sacramento agreed to co-sponsor the project and the equipment costs are much lower than first projected.

The additional \$30,000 required to fund the increase in costs is recommended to be funded out of General Fund Contingency.

The Police Department will absorb the following additional costs for conversion, without budget augmentation:

- training of additional rangemasters
- training of department armorers
- cost of miscellaneous tools needed by armorer to service SIG-Sauer pistols
- range fees
- targets