

*STAFF REPORT**CITY OF OCEANSIDE*

---

DATE: May 7, 2008  
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
FROM: Police Department  
SUBJECT: **PURCHASE OF BULLETPROOF REPLACEMENT VESTS**

**SYNOPSIS**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 to Galls Retail CA Lock Box of Pasadena and San Diego for the purchase of 140 Bulletproof Law Enforcement Vests, and authorize the Financial Services Director, or designee, to execute the purchase order.

**BACKGROUND**

It is mandatory per the City of Oceanside Police Department Policy and Procedure that all supervisors and officers engaged in uniformed field enforcement duties wear body armor (bulletproof vests). In addition it is a requirement that all non-uniformed officers possess bulletproof vests while engaged in fieldwork. The Department purchases standard issue vests for each qualified member and replaces them when they reach their expiration date. This purchase and replacement process usually goes along at a routine pace except when there are exceptional circumstances or events.

In the year 2001, the Oceanside Police Department began issuing level II vests, an upgraded level from the prior minimum level of II-A. In June 2003 Oceanside Police Officer Tony Zeppetella was killed in the line of duty. Officer Zeppetella was wearing an upgraded Level II vest containing a Zylon fabric. A month later, a police officer in Pennsylvania was shot and seriously injured when his vest, which was the same brand, model, and threat level, was penetrated by a bullet. Later laboratory testing by private firms and the National Institute of Justice proved that the Zylon fabric degraded faster than originally reported (per expiration date) when exposed to heat and moisture.

As a safety precaution, in the summer of 2003, the Police Department and City made the decision to replace over 100 current vests that contained the Zylon fabric. Additionally, between June 2003 and June 2004, the Department hired 20 new officers, and 16 vests were replaced due to normal replacement schedule.

Whereas the replacement schedule for bulletproof vests is five years from the date of purchase, this results in the Police Department anticipating that there will be a total of 140 vests purchased between August 2008 and June 2009 at a total maximum cost of \$120,000 including tax.

### **ANALYSIS**

The department has utilized Galls to serve our bulletproof vest needs since 2003 due to several important factors including fair pricing, timeliness, and personalized service. The Police Department solicited bids due April 10, 2008, directly from four vest suppliers. In its solicitation the Department required eight specific factors. Written bids were received from Galls and Ace Uniforms, with verbal “no bids” from the other two vendors. Galls is the only vendor that we can be certain will consistently meet all of the department’s service requirements and therefore the department would like to continue to do business with them on this purchase. Each qualified staff member will have a choice from an assortment of vests offered and Galls will provide on-site personalized fitting and service.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Bulletproof Vest replacements covered under this Purchase Order are funded in the Police Department budget under 101 364370.5393. The cost of Bulletproof Vests has been partially reimbursed by the federal government over the years via a Bulletproof Vest (BVP) grant program which the Police Department has been awarded six of the past nine years. \$38,294.04 has been awarded over these years with the largest award of \$19,075.13 being a result of the 2007 solicitation. The awarded funds are claimed after qualifying expenditures are incurred. Upon receipt the funds are deposited into a special general fund account that was specifically created for the purpose.

### **CITY ATTORNEY’S ANALYSIS**

Does not apply.

### **COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORT**

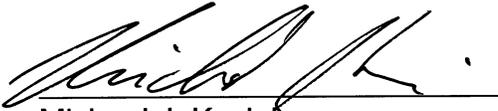
The Police & Fire Commission considered and approved this matter at its regular monthly meeting on April 17, 2008.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 to Galls Retail CA Lock Box of Pasadena and San Diego for the purchase of 140 Bulletproof Law Enforcement Vests, and authorize the Financial Services Director, or designee, to execute the purchase order.

PREPARED BY:

SUBMITTED BY:



Michael J. Koziel  
Senior Management Analyst  
Police Administration



Peter A. Weiss  
City Manager

**REVIEWED BY**

Michelle Skaggs-Lawrence, Deputy City Manager  
Frank McCoy, Police Chief  
Thomas Jones, Police Captain  
Teri Ferro, Financial Services Director