

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with Seattle Police Department to accept emergency response equipment valued at \$112,065 purchased through a federal Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant.

Wendell Shirley, Chief, 452-4177
Police Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Resolution authorizes the City to accept emergency response equipment from the Seattle Police Department purchased through a UASI grant.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10156

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In 2021, after a tour of the East Link tunnel, Bellevue Police Department SWAT leadership identified an immediate need to significantly upgrade the team's night vision devices (NVD). The obstacles and terrain in that low-light environment along with other serious environmental challenges would significantly challenge the team's operational capabilities because some SWAT operators currently rely on older night vision devices using a monocular platform. Monocular means that operators only have night vision accessible to one eye. While this is certainly better than having no night vision capability, an upgrade to the latest NVD technology on a binocular platform would significantly enhance the teams' ability to operate in very challenging environments like tunnels.

The benefits of the upgrade to the Binocular Night Vision Device (BNVD) platform can be broken down into three major categories:

Depth Perception: Humans use stereoscopic vision cues for depth perception, which **cannot** occur with monocular devices. Better depth perception allows safer movement in danger areas (Light Rail Tunnel, parks, unlit forested terrain) and allows for faster dynamic movement in high-risk incidents (Hostage Rescue).

Situational Awareness: BNVD doubles the area of vision in low-light and high-stress incidents, providing operators with additional information to make proper tactical decisions, especially critical in high-liability and high-profile incidents.

Fatigue: BNVD uses both eyes and thus does not create additional operator fatigue between aided/unaided eyes. Further, current BNVD uses a **white/black** contrasted image as opposed to the green image available using the older night vision devices, further reducing eye strain and fatigue. Reducing operator fatigue is particularly important for longer events (barricade, hostage rescue, etc.).

Bellevue Police SWAT is currently allotted 20 operator positions. Through a previously awarded UASI grant and use of unallocated budget funds at the end of 2021, the department acquired 10 BNVDs. However, the department is still 10 devices short, which means that half of the operators on the team use the old monocular platforms. BNVDs are extremely expensive at over \$10,000 per unit. Accepting this emergency equipment from the Seattle Police Department will allow the City to equip every SWAT operator with enhanced BNVD equipment and provides an extra pair in the event of unexpected repairs or damage. The grant award Seattle received through UASI authorized Seattle Police to purchase 11 kits of the Licentia Arms Company night vision goggle (BNVD) system. Licentia Arms Company is based out of Louisville, KY and is a high-end night vision company specializing in helmet mounted night vision devices.

Bellevue Police SWAT will be responsible for the maintenance, training, storage, proper use, and inventory of these devices. The agreement requires that the City certify biennially the date of inventory, location, and condition of the equipment. This requirement is consistent with other UASI funded equipment in the department's inventory.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Accepting this equipment supports the following City of Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, Neighborhoods Element Policies:

N-2. Ensure police, fire and emergency services provide high level of public safety that respond to growth and changing community needs.

N-4. Plan and prepare for the response, recovery, and mitigation of potential disasters and hazards.

Fiscal Impact

If approved, the City agrees to accept equipment valued at \$112,065 from the Seattle Police Department. There is no matching fund requirement for this grant award.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with Seattle Police Department to accept emergency response equipment valued at \$112,065 purchased through a federal Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 10156

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Distribution Agreement between the Seattle Police Department and the Bellevue Police Department