



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: November 18, 2024

In Control: Public Safety Committee

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

SAPD Sentinel Armored Rescue Vehicle

SUMMARY:

Briefing and possible action on the replacement of an armored rescue vehicle funded with 2023 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Funds in the amount of \$357,350. This vehicle will be used by the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team to respond to critical emergency situations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2023, San Antonio was allocated \$3.8 million from the FY 2023 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The UASI program is intended to provide financial assistance to address equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, urban areas, and to assist these areas in building and sustaining capabilities to prevent, protect against, mitigate, and respond to public emergencies.

This grant provides funding for the San Antonio Police Department to replace a 2006 armored vehicle for the SWAT Unit. The new vehicle (The Sentinel) offers the latest technology and agility not previously available in existing equipment, keeping officers and civilians safer during critical incidents. The Sentinel can also be utilized in times of natural disasters to traverse normally inaccessible areas to rescue victims.

The SAPD SWAT Team is the only full-time Tier 1 team in the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) Region 18. A Tier 1 SWAT team responds critical incidents including hostage rescue, barricaded armed individuals, sniper operations, high-risk warrant service, apprehension, security operations, and terrorism response which exceed the capability and/or capacity of an agency's first responders and/or investigative units.

The Sentinel would be purchased as a sole-source item from International Armored Group utilizing funding awarded to the City of San Antonio by U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Small Business Economic Development Advocacy (SBEDA) Ordinance requirements were waived due to the lack of small, minority, and/or women businesses available to provide these goods and services. There were no bids submitted from local bidders for this contract, therefore, the Local Preference Program was not applied. The Veteran-Owned Small Business Preference Program does not apply to goods/supplies contracts, so no preference was applied to this contract.

ISSUE:

Briefing and possible action on the purchase of an Armored Rescue Vehicle (the Sentinel) for the San Antonio Police Department SWAT unit.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding in the amount of \$357,350.00 is available from the 2023 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

No alternatives.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Public Safety Committee forwards the procurement of the SWAT vehicle to the full City Council for approval. This item is tentatively scheduled for City Council consideration in December 2024.