

**REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:**

DATE: May 26, 2015

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S OPERATING BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,252 FOR THE SOLE-SOURCE PURCHASE OF LESS-LETHAL EXTENDED IMPACT WEAPONS FROM SAGE ORDNANCE SYSTEMS GROUP (GENERAL FUNDS)**

**Report in Brief**

The Police Department has several less-lethal options to subdue violent offenders. These options include Tasers, batons, chemical agents, and other items including extended less-lethal impact weapons. Extended-less lethal impact weapons are designed to propel an object at an individual with the intent to not penetrate the person's body or cause permanent injury. There are a variety of launchers and projectiles available from various manufacturers. The department currently deploys 12-gauge shotguns that launch bean bag rounds as an extended less-lethal impact weapon. Police staff conducted an assessment of the current system in place and determined this particular weapons platform needed to be updated. There are risk factors related to the current platform, such as a live shotgun round placed in the shotgun. A new weapon system will improve the effectiveness of this category of device and reduce risk factors.

The Chief of Police recommends the Council approve the appropriation of funds from the Police Department's operating budget in the amount of \$44,452 to purchase twenty one (21) launchers, ammunition and related equipment from Sage Ordnance Systems Group. This is a sole-source purchase because the selected platform is only sold by Sage.

**Background**

The main reason staff is recommending replacing the Police Department's current extended less lethal impact weapons is the current system is no longer considered best practice and does not meet industry standards. The current extended less lethal weapons can be loaded with available lethal ammunition (12 gauge shotgun shells) and the bean bag rounds can penetrate the human body when shot at extremely close range. These present extended less lethal weapons have been in place for nearly two decades.

The use of these weapons is intended to reduce the opportunities of using lethal force, such as an officer involved shooting.

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**Discussion**

The Police Department's Armory Committee researched several manufacturers currently being used by California law enforcement agencies. The selected projectile launchers use a rifled barrel for improved accuracy. In addition, these extended less lethal weapons use 37mm or 40mm projectile launchers. The department will not buy potentially lethal ammunition that could be loaded in the proposed new launchers. The projectiles are designed not to penetrate, even at extremely close range. Five other county agencies including the Sheriff's Office use similar weapons for patrol officers.

The proposed vendor for the product staff is recommending is Sage Ordnance Systems Group. This company offers single-shot, double-shot and multi-shot launchers. The launchers can also be used to launch chemical agents. The Armory Committee recommended a mixture of multi-shot and two-shot launchers would best fit the needs of our department.

All officers will be trained on the new system. Sage Ordnance Systems Group has agreed to provide a train the trainer course for the Department's use of force instructors. Personnel will be trained in regularly scheduled perishable skills training days. This purchase includes the following items:

- Eight (8) Multi-Launchers with a magazine capacity of five (5) rounds
- Thirteen (13) Two-Shot Launchers
- Sight rail kits for each launcher for to improve accuracy and effectiveness
- 500 rounds of reloadable practice ammunition
- 250 rounds of rubber tipped standard energy rounds for field deployment

**Fiscal Impact**

There are funds in the Police Department's Operating Budget to support the recommended purchase. The fiscal impact would be \$44,452, which is the cost 21 launchers, sight rail kits, and 750 rounds of ammunition.

**Public Contact**

The agenda has been properly posted.

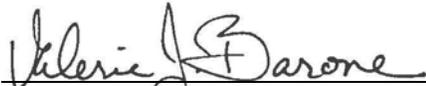
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**Recommendation for Action**

Staff recommends approval and appropriation of funds from the Police Department's Operating Budget in the amount of \$44,452 for the sole-source purchase of twenty one (21) launchers, 750 rounds of ammunition, and sight rail kits from Sage Ordnance Systems Group.



Valerie J. Barone  
City Manager

Valerie.barone@cityofconcord.org

Prepared by: Darrell Graham  
Police Lieutenant

Reviewed by: Guy A. Swanger  
Chief of Police

Guy.swanger@cityofconcord.org

Attachment 1: Sage Ordnance Systems Group Letter dated April 24, 2015

April 24, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Sage Control Ordnance, Inc. is the manufacturer and “sole source” for the Deuce Multi-Role, two shot over/under Projectile Launchers.

No other company manufactures the Deuce launcher system. The Deuce is manufactured in the United State of America.

No other company manufactures the 37mm rifled ammunition/components, which are specifically designed for use with the Deuce launchers. The ammunition/components are fully compatible with the British ARWEN 37 launcher systems.

Sage Control Ordnance, Inc. sells directly to law enforcement and military agencies. Sage offers a distributor program for our 37mm/40mm ammunition/components and launcher products.

Should you have any further questions, please contact our corporate office in Oscoda, Michigan.

Sincerely,



Channing Will  
Sales Associate