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**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Bob Doyle, Sheriff-Coroner-PA

SUBMITTAL DATE:
06/19/07

SUBJECT: Approval of ProForce Law Enforcement as a Sole Source Provider of Taser Weapons and Supplies for the Sheriff's Department.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Move that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase Taser weapons and supplies from ProForce Law Enforcement without securing competitive bids, in accordance with Ordinance 459.4, through June 30, 2010.

BACKGROUND: In March 2006, the Sheriff's Department's Ben Clark Training Center purchased five Taser X26 weapons (Less-lethal electro muscular disruption, electronic devices) and supplies from ProForce Law Enforcement for testing purposes. On 6/13/06 (3.29) the Board approved the purchase of thirty-six more Tasers and supplies for expanded testing of this less-lethal device throughout the county. As a result, the Sheriff's Department launched a six-month study of the Taser which resulted in approximately 100 deployments with an overall effectiveness of 95%. During the study, no user complaints were made about the weapon's usage or mechanics.

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FINANCIAL DATA

Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$2,002,200	In Current Year Budget:	No
Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$1,257,930	Budget Adjustment:	No
Annual Net County Cost:	\$267,620	For Fiscal Year:	FY 2006-07

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Contingency (Sheriff's Budget Savings Retention Plan FY 05-06) and Contract City Revenue

Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30

Requires 4/5 Vote

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY: *Lisa Brandl*
Lisa Brandl

County Executive Office Signature

- Dep't Recomm.: Consent Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

The Taser X26 is manufactured by Taser International. ProForce Law Enforcement, located in Brea, is Taser International's only authorized distributor for the States of California, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico.

Prior to the initial purchase, the Department did extensive research into less-lethal electronic devices. The Taser X26 and the Stinger S-400 were the only electronic devices on the market with the ability to store data regarding the number of fires, date, time, and voltage expended that could be downloaded to a computer and utilized as evidence.

In a comparison of the weapon's features, the Department found the Taser X26 to be superior to the Stinger device as the Taser X26 is half the weight of the Stinger and penetrates clothing up to two inches thick, 63% deeper than the Stinger. The Taser X26 deploys its darts with compressed nitrogen whereas the Stinger deploys its darts with gun powder. Gun powder causes a flash point and explosion, where Nitrogen does not. Sheriff's Deputies use the exact same hand motions and muscle memory while firing the Taser X26 as they do firing their standard semi-automatic pistol. This drastically reduces the amount of time required to train and certify users. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department has twenty-four certified instructors and can provide its own user certification training.

On May 16, 2007, the Sheriff's Department was informed by Stinger that they no longer distribute their Stinger S-400 device due to its weight and the many complaints about its overall mechanics. As a result, Stinger has re-introduced an older, updated model S-200. This model is currently in the testing stages and Stinger is unable to provide a date as to when training and testing of this model will be available.

Use of this type of technology can help reduce worker's compensation claims, increase officer safety, and reduce the number of officer involved shootings. Locally, several law enforcement agencies deploy Taser technology, including the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Ventura County Sheriff's Department, Riverside Police Department, Banning Police Department, Corona Police Department, Hemet Police Department, Cathedral City Police Department and Indio Police Department.

The Sheriff would like to deploy the Taser X26 department wide over the next year. An initial purchase from ProForce Law Enforcement this fiscal year will include 1,420 X26 Tasers, batteries with a four-year warranty, belt clips and cartridges. Total price will be approximately \$2,002,200.

Price Reasonableness

In comparing pricing between the Taser X26 and the Stinger S-200, the previous pricing on the older model stinger indicates that it would sell for about \$100 less; however, the Taser X26 comes with an integrated laser sight, low intensity lights and a XDPM Battery (Digital Power Magazine Lithium Power Cell). These features are not available with the Stinger. Additionally, the Stinger S-200 is not available for purchase, testing or training at this time.

Taser International requires its distributors to sell Taser weapons for the same price; however, distributors can give discounts on supplies. ProForce Law Enforcement discounts consumable items and provides volume discounts on large orders. ProForce Law Enforcement sells Tasers for the same price to all law enforcement agencies, a standard set by the manufacturer.