

January 29, 2004

Honorable Mayor and Members of
The Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular Meeting of
February 10, 2004

REQUEST TO PURCHASE HANDGUNS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council:

1. Authorize the purchase of forty-eight (48) STI .45 caliber handguns from Shooters Connection Incorporated of Middletown, Kentucky in the amount of \$67,638 (includes tax and shipping).
2. Appropriate \$17,638 from the Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS) fund. (The balance of the purchase has been appropriated for this fiscal year).

BACKGROUND

The Hermosa Beach Police Department purchased the handguns now in use as the department's primary duty weapon in 1983. At that time the Series Eighty, Colt Government model weapon system was the state of the art. The department chose to purchase weapons constructed of stainless steel in an effort to avoid the corrosion inherent in a marine environment. The stainless steel weapons served the department well for over twenty years. Unfortunately, many of the stainless steel components that absorb shock during the normal operation of the weapon have become brittle and are prone to failure. The weapons are failing (due to metal fatigue) during use at the shooting range at an alarming rate.

ANALYSIS

The current department handguns cannot be repaired and must be replaced. Several months ago the police department formed a committee to consider the type and caliber of weapon that should be purchased. After several meetings the committee recommended remaining with a Colt Government model weapon system in .45 caliber. Several legitimate firearms manufacturers produce a Colt Government "Type" weapon system. After careful consideration of the weapons produced by the major firearms manufacturers the committee recommended purchasing the STI .45 caliber pistol. The STI .45 caliber handgun incorporates several features that make it superior to other weapon systems in the Colt Government "Type" category. This weapon has a high capacity, (14-round) magazine that is tapered to facilitate re-loading. The weapon comes with a fixed "night-site" and each pistol is assembled by hand ensuring smoother operation for better shot placement.

The department advertised a request for proposal (RFP) for forty-eight (48) pistols with bids due on January 22, 2004. A total of four bids were received. Staff evaluated the bids and determined that Shooters Connection Incorporated of Middletown, Kentucky submitted the lowest bid.

Once the new pistols are issued to the officers, the current pistols will be destroyed.

FISCAL IMPACT

An amount of \$17,638 is to be appropriated from the Citizens Option for Public Safety (C.O.P.S.) fund. The remainder of the funds (\$50,000) has been approved in the current fiscal year budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Concur:

Michael Lavin, Chief of Police
Hermosa Beach Police Department

Stephen Burrell
City Manager

Fiscal Impact:

Viki Copeland
Finance Director