



Executive Director's
Report to the
Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: MAY 23, 2024

FROM: PORT POLICE DIVISION

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ - AWARD OF CONTRACT NO. 40047
TO AXON ENTERPRISE, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF CONDUCTED
ELECTRICAL WEAPONS

SUMMARY:

Staff requests approval of Contract No. 40047 with Axon Enterprise, Inc. (Axon) of Scottsdale, Arizona. This one-time Purchase Order will provide for the purchase of 165 conducted electrical weapons (Taser Devices), related accessories, and training for a period of five years to be used by Los Angeles Port Police (Port Police) sworn personnel. The total Contract amount is \$874,366.97, including all applicable taxes. The City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) will be financially responsible for the payment of expenses incurred under the proposed Contract.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Find that the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article II Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines;
2. Find that Contract No. 40047 qualifies for award on a sole source basis as a contract for the performance of professional, technical and special services of a temporary or occasional character for which competitive bidding is not practicable or advantageous, and includes parts obtained from the manufacturer of the equipment or its exclusive agent, pursuant to Los Angeles City Charter, Section 371(e)(2), (e)(7) and (e)(10) and Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.15(a)(2), (a)(7) and (a)(10);
3. Award and approve the Contract No. 40047 to Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the purchase of conducted electrical weapons, related accessories and training in the amount of \$874,366.97 including applicable taxes;
4. Authorize the Executive Director to execute and the Board Secretary to attest to Contract No. 40047 for and on behalf of the Board; and
5. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

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DISCUSSION:

Background/Context - A Taser Device provides police officers with a handheld less-than-lethal use of force option when encountering uncooperative suspects while performing their law enforcement duties. Taser Devices are the law enforcement industry standard to provide a less-than-lethal option in the use of force continuum. The purpose of a Taser is to control a violent or potentially violent individual and minimize risk of serious injury to that subject, officers, or the community.

Port Police deploys numerous less-than-lethal options, such as batons, pepper spray, chemical mace, bean bag rounds, and rubber bullets, to allow personnel to select the most appropriate tool that will de-escalate tense situations and reduce potential injuries to subjects in high-risk encounters. For well over 10 years, Port Police officers have used Taser Devices to effectively de-escalate tense scenarios without having to resort to a higher level of force, including deadly force.

Taser Devices are currently issued to all Port Police officers and are carried while on patrol, during calls for service, and during other types of law enforcement response operations. Taser Devices fire two small dart-like electrodes, which attach to the skin and are connected to the unit by thin wires. An electric current is transmitted which disrupts voluntary muscle control causing temporary incapacitation.

Officers are required to complete training prior to carrying Taser Devices and are bound by Department Policy on "Conductive Energy Devices." The policy includes an additional requirement for annual recertification training.

The current Taser Device platform is approximately 10 years old and is out-of-date. As such, all the current Taser Devices are out of warranty and are no longer supported by the manufacturer for repair or replacement.

The Taser 10 model indicated in the proposed Contract is the latest technology and the Los Angeles Police Department is also in the process of transitioning to this version. In addition to providing consistency with the Los Angeles Police Department and law enforcement personnel, the Taser 10 is the only Taser Device on the market that has the capabilities of almost doubling the distance an officer can deploy the darts. This satisfies the law enforcement nationwide de-escalation trend of distance equals time for officers to increase their ability to use the lowest level of force.

The goal of the Taser 10 development is to reduce the number of officer-involved shootings. Across the nation, there have been a significant number of officer-involved shootings due to missed Taser applications. The Taser 10 is the only model that can

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deploy 10 individually targeted probes that allows an officer to overcome the suspect's movements and missed applications of the taser darts. All other Taser models have single deployment capabilities and must be reloaded if the darts miss due to the suspect's movements and distance. This often leads officers to escalate to a higher level of force including firearms. Additionally, this model almost doubles the range of the current tasers maximum range of 25 feet to 45 feet, creating more time and space to de-escalate and resolve conflicts. This further enhances the ability of Port Police Officers to de-escalate dangerous and tense situations, to protect life, and reduce potential for serious injuries.

This contract includes the Taser Device platform for Port Police officers as well as training, field cartridges, and batteries. Additionally, all maintenance, repairs and replacements are fully covered for a period of five years.

Selection Process – On March 21, 2024, Port Police submitted requisition Z-24-094 (ERP #93088) to the Contracts and Purchasing Division for the purchase of conducted electrical weapons.

Axon Enterprise, Inc. is the sole manufacturer of the Taser Devices, which are a law enforcement industry standard to provide a less-than-lethal option in the use of force continuum. A competitive process under Charter Section 371 was not possible to the extent that the vendor is the only supplier of the Tasers (Axon's Sole Source Letter dated March 14, 2024 (Transmittal 2)). Because Axon Enterprise, Inc. is the sole manufacturer of this device, the required training is only available through this vendor.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is the approval of Contract No. 40047 with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the purchase of Taser Devices, which is an administrative action. Therefore, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively exempt from the requirements of CEQA in accordance with Article II Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the proposed one-time Purchase Order authorizes the amount of \$874,366.97 for the purchase of 165 Taser Devices, 10 certification bundles, installation services, and training.

Funding for FY 2023/24 in the amount of \$874,366.97 is available within Account 13150 (Equipment over \$5K Capitalized), Center 0412, Program 000. Funds have been requested to be spent in the FY 2025 budget.

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CITY ATTORNEY:

The Office of the City Attorney has approved the proposed Contract as to form and legality.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Contract No. 40047
2. Axon Sole Source Letter

FIS Approval: JS
CA Approval: JC



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Deputy Chief of Police



THOMAS E. GAZSI
Chief of Public Safety
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APPROVED:

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