



**THE PORT  
OF LOS ANGELES**  
Executive Director's  
Report to the  
Board of Harbor Commissioners

**DATE: MARCH 26, 2025**

**FROM: PORT POLICE**

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - AWARD TO F.S.O.C., LLC FOR  
PURCHASE OF MARITIME TACTICAL BALLISTIC VESTS**

**SUMMARY:**

Staff requests approval of a contract with F.S.O.C., LLC, a Local Business Enterprise (LBE) in El Segundo, California, for the purchase of maritime tactical ballistic vests for sworn staff as required by the current Memorandum of Understanding for the Harbor Peace Officers Unit (MOU 38). In response to the rise in active shooter situations in the law enforcement community, tactical ballistic vests were added as required safety equipment in MOU 38 on August 21, 2015. As such, Los Angeles Port Police (Port Police) requests 330 replacement plates for the existing vests along with 45 new vests. The replacement of these ballistic vests will ensure Port Police officers are able to respond quickly, efficiently and safely to any high-risk occurrence in the Port of Los Angeles or its surrounding communities.

The total amount of the contract, including sales tax, is \$310,366.80. The City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) will be financially responsible for payment of expenses incurred under the proposed Contract.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners (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 in accordance with City of Los Angeles Administrative Code Division 10, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 10.15(a)(8), the Harbor Department may enter into an agreement with F.S.O.C., LLC utilizing a current agreement for such services with the County of Los Angeles Contract No. MA-IS-2340059-1, a cooperative purchase agreement;
3. Award and approve a contract with F.S.O.C., LLC for the purchase of tactical ballistic vests;
4. Authorize the Executive Director to execute and the Board Secretary to attest to Contract No. \_\_\_\_\_ for and on behalf of the Board; and
5. Adopt Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_.

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**DISCUSSION:**

Background/Context – The law enforcement environment has evolved in recent years to include concerns that an active shooter might target commerce or visitor operations at the Port of Los Angeles. In response to that concern, MOU 38 (Transmittal 1) requires the issuance of a tactical ballistic vest for each of its members as safety equipment.

The selected vest will be capable of withstanding rounds fired from an automatic assault-type weapon and will be worn by all officers as a supplement to their regular duty body armor when responding to a critical incident.

An active shooter is defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as “an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area.” Active shooters typically use firearms, and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. Once on scene, officers must be prepared to quickly and safely assess the situation and mitigate further harm to victims. The tactical vests are carried by each officer as part of their duty equipment, and would be quickly put on at the scene, over their regular duty body armor.

After conducting extensive research on which tactical ballistic vest would best meet the needs of the Port Police Division during a critical incident in a maritime environment, it was determined that the Maritime Assault Plate Carrier System offered by F.S.O.C., LLC is the preferred vest. The vest is constructed of lightweight, water-resistant materials, and is easily adjustable to accommodate various body sizes and equipment configurations. The vest system is equipped with a fully integrated flotation component, and offers full flexibility and comfort for officers, while providing enhanced safety features for operation in an environment where officers may be required to engage an assailant on land or in the water. As determined by the manufacturer’s specifications and the guidelines in Article 4.10 of MOU 38, the anticipated life expectancy of these vests is five (5) years. Due to normal wear and tear, the Department is requesting to replace 45 vests.

Officers transferring into the Harbor Department from another law enforcement agency will receive the tactical vest as part of their initial equipment issue. Police Officer recruits will receive their tactical vest at the completion of their six-month Academy training period, when they become members of MOU 38.

Selection Process – On November 4, 2024, the Port Police Division submitted purchase request REQ2134 to the Contracts and Purchasing Division (CPD) for the purchase of 45 tactical ballistic vests along with 330 rifle plates for the members of MOU 38.

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Under the provisions of the County of Los Angeles Contract Number MA-IS-2340059-1, cooperative purchase arrangement, Los Angeles Administrative Code, Division 10, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 10.15 (a) (8), the Harbor Department is allowed to utilize purchasing contracts of other governmental agencies. The tactical ballistic vests will be purchased utilizing a Department of General Services cooperative arrangement through the Los Angeles County master agreement with F.S.O.C. LLC, ensuring the Harbor Department receives its favorable negotiated pricing and terms.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:**

The proposed action is the approval of a contract with F.S.O.C, LLC for the purchase of maritime tactical ballistic vests for sworn staff, which is an administrative activity. 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 Contract for 45 tactical ballistic vests and 330 rifle plates would require the Harbor Department to commit a total of \$310,366.80, including sales tax, for the purchase. FY 2024/25 funds in the amount of \$310,366.80 are available within Account 161210 (Capital Equipment Purchase), Division 52010 (Port Police), Program 000.

**CITY ATTORNEY:**

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

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TRANSMITTALS:

1. Memorandum of Understanding for the Harbor Peace Officers Association (MOU 38)
2. Bid #F-1237
3. Bid Recap
4. LA County Contract MA-IS\_2340059-1

FIS Approval: JS  
CA Approval: SO

  
GREG MCMANUS  
Deputy Chief of Police

  
THOMAS E. GAZSI  
Chief of Public Safety and  
Emergency Management

APPROVED:

*Erica M. Calhoun* for

EUGENE D. SEROKA  
Executive Director

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