



City of Homer

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Police Department

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Memorandum 22-133

TO: City Manager Dumouchel

FROM: Chief Robl

DATE: 7-14-2022

SUBJECT: Patrol Equipment Purchase Request

The Police Department engages in a continuous cycle of training officers throughout the year to maintain proficiency in critical skill sets. Throughout our trainings we are continually evaluating training effectiveness, future training needs and additional equipment needs. We also study and evaluate after incident reports from critical events around the country to determine if our training methods and equipment are adequate to address similar events occurring within our jurisdiction.

During our last active shooter response trainings and weapons qualifications drills, we have identified a need for two additional pieces of equipment for our officers. One is for suppressors for our patrol rifles. This will eliminate the sharp, loud cracking noises when the rifles are fired. Doing so will improve communications, eliminate the distractions caused by repeated, very loud noises and help shield our officers locations from armed adversaries. It will also help to make training more effective and safer for our officers. Despite using enhanced hearing protection during training, officers often leave rifle training drills with ringing in their ears which could indicate future hearing loss problems.

The second item we would like to equip all of our officers with is a professional, wired ear bud and microphone for radio communications. These units connect to the officer's portable radios and go directly into their ears. They also include a small, sensitive lip microphone with external noise cancelling features. These devices are very high tech and sophisticated. They allow for crystal clear radio reception in the harshest of environments without having to touch their portable radios. Wearing them allows officers to continue highly effective, clear communications with dispatch and other officers while moving through an active shooter scene actively shooting, rendering aide or physically engaging a suspect. We will also utilize these during many other routine calls for service such as directing traffic at accident scenes, making arrests and basically anytime when an officer needs to talk on the radio but use their hands at the same time.

Suppressors and enhanced hands-free radio communications devices are almost essential equipment at any active shooter scene. They eliminate many of the problems described by officers during the review and evaluation of responses. I request funding in the amount of \$27,823 to purchase this equipment.