



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 13, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *Dee Williams-Ridley* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Andrew Greenwood, Interim Chief, Police Department

Subject: Revenue Grant: Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program to Fund Acquisition of Specially Equipped Panel Van

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept the “Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)” grant, and enter into the resultant grant agreement and any amendments, from the Department of Homeland Security, Bay Area UASI Grant Program in the amount of \$125,373, to fund the purchase of a Panel Van equipped with internal ballistic-grade panels and ballistic-grade windows. The City will contribute \$80,000 to the project for a total program cost not to exceed \$205,373.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Total cost of the program will not exceed \$205,373. Berkeley Police Department will utilize \$80,000 from the FY 2017 Asset Forfeiture Fund which is already budgeted and available to support this purchase. Grant revenues of \$125,743 will be deposited into UASI Regional Fund. Appropriation of the expenditures will be included in the Second Amendment to the Appropriations Ordinance. There will be a future cost to the general fund 010-7101-420.75-50 estimated at \$2,500 annually for maintenance and fuel.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Police Department currently uses a standard panel van to transport groups of officers during tactical operations. This van is not equipped with steel ballistic panels, and does not provide occupants with protection from penetrating gunfire. This van is the only vehicle in the BPD fleet capable of transporting more than 4 officers during a critical incident. Despite its lack of ballistic protection, the van is used to respond to search warrant services involving potentially armed subjects, and arrest warrants of homicide and other potentially violent crime suspects, and as an available resource when responding to incidents of barricaded subjects armed with firearms. Officers using this van would be exposed to penetrating gunfire if the van were fired upon by a suspect or suspects.

Furthermore, BPD officers are trained to respond to active shooter incidents and in scenarios involving citizen rescues and officer rescues. Since 2013, BPD and BFD have

conducted several full-scale active shooter training exercises at the Berkeley Adult School and at Berkeley High School. One of the identified shortfalls with the BPD response to an active shooter incident was the lack of a vehicle with ballistic protection which could be used to move officers close to a scene in order to carry out citizen rescues in vulnerable open areas exposed to gunfire. Preparation for active shooter incidents remains a priority. According to a September 2014 FBI study on active shooter incidents from 2000 to 2013, the average number of incidents has increased from 6.4 per year to 16.4 per year nationwide. The study also found that 70 percent of active shooter incidents occurred in an educational or commercial setting. Immediate access to a ballistic protected vehicle is a crucial element in a rapid response to such an incident, and to any incident where community members or officers are exposed to gunfire, and rescue is required.

BACKGROUND

The Police Department applied for and received grant funding from the DHS Bay Area UASI Grant Program to purchase a ballistic-panel-equipped van. The vehicle is proposed as a tool to support several objectives of the FY 2016 UASI Grant Program, including Enhancing On-Scene Security and Protection through Emergency Public Safety and Security Response; Enhancing Infrastructure Protection Capabilities; and Critical Transportation. The Reinforced Panel Van proposed is a 2017 Mercedes Sprinter or Ford Transit Extended Van (or similar) with National Institute of Justice Level III protection.

The Reinforced Panel Van is similar in appearance and function to a van that is currently in the BPD fleet, except that the current van provides no ballistic protection. The proposed van has an external appearance of a standard large white commercial van. Photographs of the proposed van and the currently owned van are attached.

The external appearance of the proposed van is quite similar to that of a standard large commercial or passenger van. Internal steel panels provide ballistic protection, and are not visible from the outside of the van. Special ballistic glass is used for the windshield and all windows, but appears very similar to standard, non-ballistic windshields and windows.

The proposed van is not equipped with a gun turret or any gun-mounting equipment.

The UASI Grant Program seeks proposals which benefit regional partners. To that end, the department was awarded grant funding to support regional benefits to northern Alameda County neighboring agencies, including Albany, Emeryville, Bay Area Rapid Transit, and the University of California, Berkeley Police Departments. This tactical van fills an identified gap in resources for this portion of the Bay Area, UASI operational area. While other agencies in the operational area have tactical vehicles available, due to the population density, distances, frequency of use, and events that may happen concurrently, it is not often practical to request mutual aid assistance from these other

agencies. This vehicle will directly benefit the Alameda County Operational Area. It may also benefit the Contra Costa County, San Francisco, and Marin Operational Areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The purchase of this vehicle may result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions by requiring fewer vehicles to transport officers to specific types of critical incidents.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Police Department requests this funding be approved to increase the safety and effectiveness of the police department and further serve to benefit neighboring communities as well. The Reinforced Panel Van will increase the safety of the public and the safety of officers responding to critical incidents, including active shooter, armed barricaded subjects, or other emergency events involving the threat of hostile gunfire.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

There are no other known funding opportunities to acquire this equipment. Funding from neighboring police departments or other City of Berkeley departments is unlikely due to current fiscal realities.

CONTACT PERSON

Spencer Fomby, Police Sergeant, Police Department, 981-5821

Attachments:

- 1: Photographs
- 2: Resolution

Comparison Photographs



1. Proposed Reinforced Panel Van



2. Current BPD Van

RESOLUTION NO: ##,### N.S.

REVENUE GRANT: URBAN AREAS SECURITY INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM TO
FUND ACQUISITION OF CRITICAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security has made grant funding available to police departments to enhance On-Scene Security and Protection through Emergency Public Safety and Security Response, Enhancing Infrastructure Protection Capabilities, and Critical Transportation, to protect the health and safety of community members and police and other emergency responders; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Police Department has a need for a transport vehicle capable of protecting officers and community members from gunfire; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department will seek to work with neighboring jurisdictions to utilize any equipment acquired by Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant funds to further mutual community safety goals in accordance with the UASI Grant Program priorities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has an opportunity to file for a DHS Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Program grant to fund the purchase of a Reinforced Panel Van and the grant does not require matching funds from the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the Reinforced Panel Van is \$205,373 including sales tax and delivery, and the grant request is for \$125,373; and

WHEREAS, grant revenues will be deposited into budget code 678-7202-331-10-96, in the UASI Regional Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to accept the "Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)" grant and enter into the resultant grant agreement and any amendments, from the Department of Homeland Security, in the amount of \$125,373, for the purchase of a Reinforced Panel Van. The City will contribute \$80,000 to the project for a total program cost not to exceed \$205,373.

