



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 18, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Michael K. Meehan, Chief, Police Department

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

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept a grant, and any amendments, from the Department of Homeland Security Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program in the amount of \$149,000, to fund the purchase of a Panel Van equipped with internal ballistic-grade steel panels, and ballistic grade windows.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The funder will purchase the van and provide it to the Police Department. No funds will be expended or received if this grant is awarded. There will be an annual future cost of approximately \$2,500 to the general fund (010-7101-420.75-50) for maintenance and fuel.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Due to time constraints of the FY2015 UASI application and funding cycle, the Police Department first sought review by the Police Review Commission as a critical step in preparing to submit this item for City Council consideration. The Department's October 22, 2014 presentation to the PRC indicated that this item would be on calendar to request Council approval at the November 18, 2014 City Council meeting. At the October 22 meeting, the PRC voted unanimously to send a letter of support for the Department's grant application for the Reinforced Panel Van to the City Council. Following the PRC's vote, and in order to avoid exclusion from the FY15 UASI grant approval cycle, the Department submitted a Project Proposal Form on the October 31, 2014 deadline. It is anticipated that the Bay Area UASI Approval Authority will begin evaluating proposals on November 24, 2014.

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. BPD has no vehicles in its fleet capable of safely transporting officers into a critical incident involving

a firearm. Despite its lack of ballistic protection, the existing van is used to respond to search warrant services involving potentially armed subjects, arrest warrants of homicide and other potentially violent crime suspects and as an available resource when responding to barricaded subjects armed with firearms. Officers using this van are exposed to penetrating gunfire if the van were to be fired upon.

Furthermore, BPD officers are trained to respond to active shooter incidents and citizen 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. 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 possible.

BACKGROUND

The Police Department seeks to apply for and receive 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 FY15 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 2014 GMC Savana/Chevy Express Van 3500 Extended (or similar), Van, 6.6L V8 Diesel, Auto, NIJ III Level 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 that benefit regional partners. To that end, the department is seeking grant funding to support regional benefits to northern

Alameda County neighboring agencies, including the Albany, Emeryville, Bay Area Rapid Transit, and University of California Police Departments. This proposal fills an identified gap in resources for this portion of the 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 proposal, if funded, 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 purchasing process used for this vehicle will be through the County of Alameda General Services which has implemented "The Alameda County Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy". On October 22, 2014, Alameda County GSA hosted a Green Fleet Roundtable which included plans for County-wide environmentally sustainable procurement procedures of all vehicles and responsible practices for disposal of vehicle maintenance waste.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

If awarded, the vehicle, will 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 officers responding to critical incidents, and give officers a safer means to rescue citizens and deploy officers in the event of an active shooter incident or other emergency event involving hostile gunfire, or 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 SPECIALLY EQUIPPED PANEL VAN

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 specially equipped 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 \$149,000 including sales tax and delivery, and the grant request is for \$149,000; and

WHEREAS, the funder will purchase the equipment and provide it to the Police Department; maintenance and fuel expense will be charged to the General Fund (010-7101-420.75-50).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to apply for and accept a grant, with any amendments, from the Department of Homeland Security, in the amount of \$149,000, for the purchase of a Specially Equipped Panel Van.

