

STAFF REPORT

Date: December 6, 2023

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval to request Equitable Sharing Funds from the US Department of Justice and, if approved, purchase one BearCat emergency response vehicle utilizing the national HGACBuy contract in accordance with NRS 332.195(1) (Joinder), in an amount not to exceed \$400,000. (US Department of Justice, Equitable Sharing Funds)

From: Zac Haffner, Maintenance & Operations Manager

Department: Maintenance and Operations

Summary:

Staff is requesting approval to purchase one BearCat emergency response vehicle for the Reno Police Department, pending the US Department of Justice authorizing Equitable Sharing Funds, to utilize the national HGACBuy contract pursuant to NRS 332.195(1) (Joinder) in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

Consent Review	Yes	No
1. Is this item an annual or standard item that comes before Council for regular approval?		X
2. Is this item an agreement required based on an item previously approved by Council?		X
3. Is this item Included in the current budget approved and adopted by Council?		X
Other Considerations		
What percent of the total city budget does this item represent?		0%

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

The Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury Asset Forfeiture Programs are law enforcement programs. They remove the tools of crime from criminal organizations, deprive wrongdoers of the proceeds of their crimes, recover property that may be used to compensate victims, and deter crime. One of the ancillary benefits of asset forfeiture is the sharing of these funds with participating state and local law enforcement agencies.

In this program, specific law enforcement equipment purchases must be pre-approved by the funding agency before a purchase can be made. This includes emergency response vehicles. If approved by the US Department of Justice, funds can be used to purchase such a vehicle for use in disaster-related emergencies, active shooter scenarios, hostage or other search and rescue operations, and/or anti-terrorism preparedness, protection, prevention, response, recovery, or relief. If approved, the funds would be used to replace the Police Department's 2005 Lenco Bear, which does not offer ballistic protection for its occupants, is two-wheel drive and is no longer consistently mechanically sound.

Discussion:

The proposed emergency response vehicle would improve the safety of both the responding officers and that of any community members being rescued. This vehicle would be four wheel drive and be capable of operating in flood conditions and/or during active shooter incidents where the approach requires traversing unpaved or uneven ground.

Pursuant to City Policy 305, Maintenance and Operations Fleet Management division will administer the purchase of new vehicles. This vehicle would be a replacement to the City Fleet Program and the costs for maintenance, fueling, repair, etc. would be transferred from the equipment being disposed of to the newly purchased vehicle within the fleet fund.

Financial Implications:

Equitable Sharing Funds through the US Department of Justice do not require a match. The purchase is contingent upon securing approval to use these external funds, and will not impact the General Fund.

Legal Implications:

NRS 332.195(1) allows local governments to join the contracts of other government entities, within or outside the State of Nevada, provided the contracting vendor authorizes such joinder. The national HGACBuy contract allows and provides government entities to participate in its existing contract.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council authorize staff to request approval from the US Department of Justice to use Equitable Sharing Funds and, if approved, purchase one BearCat emergency response

vehicle from Lenco Industries, Inc. utilizing the national HGACBuy contract pursuant to NRS 332.195(1) (Joinder), in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 and authorize the City Manager of designee to sign the purchase order(s).

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendations

Attachments: