

TO: Kurt Hodgen, City Manager
FROM: Chief Stephen Monticelli
DATE: November 6, 2016
RE: Forfeiture Funding Request – Patrol Rifles For All Vehicles

Summary:

The Harrisonburg Police Department is requesting to utilize forfeiture funds to purchase seventeen (17) Patrol Rifles to be added to the current number of fifteen (15) to allow a patrol rifle to be equipped in every “Marked Patrol Vehicle”. The total cost of the seventeen patrol rifles will be \$38,790.66 or \$2,281.80 per rifle. The rifles will be built per the identical specifications of the current patrol rifle with the exception that no military based lower assemblies will be utilized.

Background:

Currently the marked patrol fleet of the Harrisonburg Police Department is thirty to include Patrol, Traffic, SRO, multi-purpose and Command Vehicles. Presently, the Department has fifteen patrol rifles that are shared by all members of the organization and are taken in and out of the building numerous times a day to place in the vehicles. The addition of seventeen patrol rifles will allow a patrol rifle to be assigned to each marked vehicle that will avoid the transportation of these rifles in and out of the building several times a day. The seventeen will also allow two extra rifles that may be stored in the building securely in case of the normally assigned rifle is down for any reason.

Key Issues:

This addition to the current Patrol Rifle Program would allow a patrol rifle to be equipped in every marked patrol vehicle currently assigned the fleet of the Harrisonburg Police Department. The addition of these weapons will upgrade the benefits of the Patrol Rifle Program and will be identical in design as our current numbers of rifles.

- The additional rifles would provide a Patrol Rifle for all Marked Vehicles in the current fleet of the Harrisonburg Police Department
- The weapons will stay in the vehicles preventing the daily carrying of the weapons in and out of the Police Department
- Officers will be more likely to qualify on the weapon that is carried in their assigned vehicle whereas, at this time with our current numbers of rifles that is very difficult to accomplish.
- That Harrisonburg Police Officers driving any marked vehicle will have the additional resources if needed to protect the community and the officers.
- The strategic plan is to replace all “Military” lowers on all rifles within the Patrol Rifle Program.

Environmental Impact:

None



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Kurt D. Hodgen
City Manager

Fiscal Impact:

The initial cost of these additional weapons would have no impact on the fiscal budget as the purchase would be made utilizing forfeiture funds available to the Police Department. Future financial impact would be in a positive way as weapons that are heavily used and shared presently will have less rounds fired through them in the yearly qualifications and training that are required within the Patrol Rifle Program.

Prior Actions:

The Department has a strategic plan to replace all "military" lowers within our Patrol Rifle Program. The purchase of these weapons will contain all parts designed for "Law Enforcement" purposes.

- Alternatives:**
- (a) Do not purchase the Patrol Rifles at this time and remain with the current number of rifles available to the department
 - (b); Purchase a lower number of rifles to be added to the current program.
 - (c) Or, purchase the recommended weapons to be added to the Harrisonburg Program that will provide the needed resources to the Department

Recommendation:

Chief Stephen Monticelli is in full support of the initiative, and recommends its immediate implementation into the Harrisonburg Rifle Program.

Attachments:

Please see attached breakdown of costs for the purchase and implementation of seventeen additional Patrol Rifles for all Marked Patrol Vehicles within the fleet of the Harrisonburg Police Department.

Review:

The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.

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