


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	20-504	Meeting:	November 23, 2020
	Agenda Item:	45	Roll Call:	20-1910
	Submitted by:	Dana Wingert, Chief of Police		

AGENDA HEADING:

Purchase of three (3) remote operated robot systems from Safeware Inc. (Edward A. Simons, President) for the Statewide Explosive Ordnance Detection (EOD) Teams using funds from 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program award, \$943,235

SYNOPSIS:

The Des Moines Police Department recommends approval for the purchase of three (3) new remote operated explosive ordnance robot systems from Safeware Inc. The Andos F6 robot platform, currently used by each of the eight (8) statewide teams, will soon reach the end of serviceable life. The robot is needed to maintain the required capabilities for FBI/National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board (NBSCAB) accreditation as a Type 1 bomb and explosive device response team. Since there are eight (8) teams, and the estimated cost of the new robot systems is extensive, the replacement process will require incremental purchases depending on the amount of available funding.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$943,235.40, 2020 Homeland Security EOD grant award.

Funding Source: Adopted Operating Budget, Department Detail for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Page 211.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The City of Des Moines annually serves as the fiscal agent for the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) to support the eight (8) statewide EOD teams. This grant program funding is specifically designated to assisting these teams to maintain a high level of capabilities in order to remain FBI/ National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board (NBSCAB) accredited as a Type 1 bomb and explosive device team. Part of the necessary capabilities requires each team be equipped with a remote operated explosive ordnance robot system. The current Andros F6 robot system, currently used by the teams, will soon reach the end of serviceable life due to new standards being issued by NBSCAB.
- The new standards will require the purchase of new robot systems for each team to be built to meet these new standards. The cost of the new robots is extensive and purchasing a robot system for each team will require an incremental approach to replace all eight (8) systems.

- The remote operated robot has multiple capabilities and is a vital piece of equipment to address explosive devices. The robot enables bomb technicians to examine, analyze and disarm explosive devices from the safety of a remote location. It is controlled through a closed-circuit computer communications system with cameras for visual observation. The robot is designed to mimic human movement as closely as possible for precision and accuracy.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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