



## REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Date Requested: <u>April 8, 2024</u>
Requested By: <u>Bennie Boles, Interim Chief</u>
Department: <u>Police</u>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Report <input type="radio"/> Resolution <input type="radio"/> Ordinance

Appropriation	
Source of Funds:	<u>Budget</u>
Account Number:	<u>00152585212090</u>
Amount Budgeted:	<u>\$0.00</u>
Amount Requested:	<u>\$66,568.72.</u>
Budgeted Item:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

**Exhibits:** 5 Year End of Life Recommendation-Axon Quote & Sole Source/Proprietary Letter

### SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

The La Porte Police Department has recently completed a comprehensive audit of our existing taser inventory. Our current taser systems provided by our vendor, Axon Enterprises Inc., are the X26P models. Through consultation with Axon, the Department learned a significant portion of our inventory is beyond its five (5) year end-of-life period (EOL). Axon recently notified us that any taser at EOL should be taken out of service as they cannot guarantee the taser will work as designed. The vendor has only recently begun using the term EOL and recommends we cease using the tasers after five (5) years. The vendor further advises future discontinuation of the X26P model taser as the technology is "from the early 90's." The Department began purchasing the X26P in 2012 and has replaced those devices as needed due to necessary repairs beyond the taser warranty while keeping others in service as they continue to work as designed through regular testing and training.

The vendor's EOL terminology potentially creates an exposure to the City should a taser not perform as designed after the recommended five (5) year life cycle. This being said, standard operating procedure, recommended by Axon, is for each officer to test their taser prior to each tour of duty. Tasers have failed the test and have immediately been removed from service and repaired or replaced. The Department has followed this model since the creation of their Taser program. The Department deploys tasers approximately ten (10) times per year and has never experienced a failure during an in-the-line of duty deployment.

Based on the information provided by the vendor on the recommended life cycle, the Department has identified thirty-two (32) X26P tasers, which are at their EOL and require replacement. Axon has provided a quote for thirty-two (32) tasers at \$44,672.00, thirty-two (32) battery packs at \$2790.40, fifty (50) live cartridges at \$2165.00, fifty (50) inert training cartridges at \$2165.00, and a four-year extended warranty at \$14,776.32 for a total of \$66,568.72.

The Department budgets for taser replacements and cartridges annually. Our original budget for taser replacements for the current fiscal year was \$8,800, which is well short of the required amount to replace the X26P tasers presently at their EOL. However, after discussion with the City Manager's office and the Finance Department, funds were identified for a budget amendment to secure the replacement tasers this fiscal year.

The Department will continue to budget for replacement tasers and cartridges annually, keeping our inventory within the EOL period and giving a four-year warranty for each newly purchased taser.

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Due to the possible exposure of having a taser that its manufacturer no longer supports, the Department requests that the City Council provide direction for action moving forward.

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#### **STRATEGIC PLAN KEY FOCUS AREAS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

*Organizational Excellence: The City of La Porte will operate in a transparent, efficient, accountable, and responsive manner by preparing the organization and the staff for the future, focusing on core services, attracting and retaining the best employees and wise stewardship of financial resources.*

*Establish and communicate emergency preparedness plan to better respond to dangerous events in the community and area.*

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#### **ACTION REQUIRED BY CITY COUNCIL**

**Presentation, discussion, and possible action to provide direction on the La Porte Police Department's taser program.**