



Town Council Agenda Report

SUBJECT: Resolution

CONTACT PERSON/NUMBER: Chief John George/693-8320

TITLE OF AGENDA ITEM: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT A FIREARMS, TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, TO BE FUNDED FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND

REPORT IN BRIEF: The Firearms, Training and Maintenance Program will include the purchase of Ruger carbine rifles, parts and accessories. The maintenance and repair of the new and existing weapons will be provided by the department's in-house Certified Armory Personnel, thereby saving thousands of dollars by not having to send the firearms back to the manufacturer. The specialized training our officers would receive with these new as well as their current weapons will be provided by the department's in-house Certified Range Masters. The department was interested in a carbine rifle that could fire duty handgun ammunition to be used in situations such as: Armed Robberies, Felony Car Stops, Snipers, Barricaded Suspects, and for Securing a Perimeter prior to the Special Response Team's arrival. This Ruger Carbine has obvious advantages for police officers, giving them common, compatible ammunition, greater range and firepower than handguns, and in this age of legal liability, more precise shot placement and lower penetration than is available with high powered rifle or shotgun ammunition. Currently the firearms being used by our Officers are over thirteen years old and require specialized servicing which involves totally taking apart the weapon and having it thoroughly cleaned by a certified armorer. As our current weapons age, officers going to the range will experience more and more malfunctions without this needed specialized maintenance. Part of the funds in this program will be used to purchase a sonic cleaner to clean not only the officers handguns but these new rifles as well.

Keeping our Police Officers properly trained and having their equipment maintained is paramount to the safety of our officers and to the public as well.

All purchases will be handled, per Town procedures.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS: N/A

CONCURRENCES: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

Has request been budgeted? yes

 If yes, estimated cost \$60,000 for firearms and accessories

 \$15,000 for maintenance, tools and parts

 Account Name: Law Enforcement Trust Fund

RECOMMENDATION(S): Motion to approve resolution

Attachment(s):
Resolution

RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT A FIREARMS, TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, TO BE FUNDED FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, the Police Department finds it necessary to implement a Firearms, Training and Maintenance Program within the department; and

WHEREAS, the Firearms, Training and Maintenance Program would consist of obtaining some new weaponry and accessories for same; parts for repairing and maintaining existing weapons; and providing for firearms training of our Police Officers, by in-house Range Masters and Certified Armory Personnel; and

WHEREAS, the requested lightweight carbine rifles have advantages for Police Officers that give them greater range with a more precise shot placement and with lower penetration than full powered rifles or shotgun ammunition; and

WHEREAS, the training and maintenance portion of this program would be a feasible cost factor by using trained in-house personnel; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department wishes to implement the Firearms, Training and Maintenance Program with the expenditure from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund, in compliance with Florida State Statute 932.704, which is not a recurring cost.

WHEREAS, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA.

SECTION: 1. The Town Council of the Town of Davie approves the implementation of the Firearms, Training and Maintenance Program of the Davie Police Department.

SECTION 2. The Town Council of the Town of Davie hereby authorizes the expenditure from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund.

SECTION 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2000

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER

ATTEST:

TOWN CLERK

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2000

DAVIE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Inter-office Memorandum

TO: Robert Middaugh, Town Administrator
THRU: Chief John George, Chief of Police
FROM: Captain Jim Ewing
DATE: 24 Feb 2000
SUBJECT: Firearms, Training and Maintenance Program Backup Information

The police department has been interested for a long time in purchasing a carbine rifle that would give our officers a tactical advantage over criminals with much greater firepower. Currently our officers are limited to their handgun with a small number of shotguns available. The use of a shotgun is very limited because of the number of pellets it fires and the spread out pattern of the shot itself.

A ten person panel of officers were put together to find, test and compare the rifles on the market today that could be used for our type of law enforcement. Only two rifle manufacturers, Colt and Ruger, were found that manufactured a Law Enforcement Model Rifle that met our needs. After comparing and test firing the weapons at the Plantation Police Department Indoor Range, both the Ruger Carbine and the Colt AR-15 were equally matched weapons. However the Ruger carbine's purchase price was approximately \$370.00 as compared to the Colt's price of over \$500.00. Based on this final criteria the Ruger Carbine was the chosen rifle for our usage.

The Ruger carbine has a sturdy, weather-resistant DuPont Zytel polymer stock with rubber recoil pad that is matt black in color, as is the finish of the rifle barrel itself. The light weight, reliable functioning and ergonomic handling qualities of the carbine make it easy and comfortable to aim and use and is less menacing than a large assault rifle. The obvious advantages for the police officer is that it gives them common compatible ammunition, greater range and firepower than their handguns. In this age of legal liability, the carbine delivers a more precise shot placement, with a lower penetration level than you have with a high powered rifle or shotgun.

The carbine would be authorized in situations that require the use of deadly force and accuracy from a distance. Deployment of the carbine can increase an officer's effectiveness and thus reduce the danger to both officers and citizens. Some examples of situations where the carbine may be of use include, but are not limited to: Armed Robberies, Felony Car Stops, Snipers, Barricaded Suspects, or Securing a Perimeter prior to the Special Response Team's arrival.