



NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: December 6, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Shannan Moon, Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator**

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing purchase of capital asset of a purpose-built armored vehicle known as a Bearcat, from Lenco Armored Vehicles in the amount of \$376,000.00, return the MRAP acquired under the Law Enforcement Support Office 1033 Program, and approve the related budget amendment (4/5ths affirmative vote required)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the resolution

FUNDING: Funding for the Bearcat vehicle will come from the Sheriff's Office special revenue fund 1171 Rural County Sheriff with no impact to the General Fund.

BACKGROUND: In 2014, the Nevada County Sheriff's Office took delivery of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle ("MRAP") from the federal government under the 1033 Program which allows law enforcement agencies to obtain excess property from the Department of Defense.

Armored vehicles are a vital piece of public safety equipment. These vehicles can be used to effect safer rescues of both law enforcement personnel, as well as civilians, in areas that would be too dangerous for Fire and/or EMS personnel to enter. Additionally, when other methods have failed or are not an option, these vehicles can be used to safely move a crisis negotiator close enough to where they might establish verbal contact in hope of diffusing the situation and resulting in a peaceful outcome.

The Sheriff's Office has encountered several situations where the MRAP, clearly designed as a heavy duty military vehicle built to protect military troops from the effects of roadside IED's, is not well suited to Nevada County terrain and infrastructure. The vehicle's height, small windows, required operating licenses and extreme weight which exceeds the carrying capacity of numerous

**NEVADA COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



SHANNAN MOON
SHERIFF/CORONER
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

crossings and bridges, limit its usefulness.

The vehicle the Sheriff's Office has identified as being the most optimal replacement for the MRAP is the "Bearcat", manufactured by the Massachusetts based company Lenco Armored Vehicles. The Bearcat is a purpose-built armored rescue vehicle, constructed atop a standard Ford chassis. The Bearcat has the same ballistic protection rating for its occupants as the MRAP. The Bearcat can safely carry within it up to 12 fully equipped personnel and requires no special DMV licensing beyond a standard California Class-C license. The vehicle is extremely maneuverable, capable of accessing some of the smallest of roadways and is four-wheel drive for getting into the more remote areas of the county.

Lenco Bearcat models operate in over 100 California law enforcement agencies today. In fact, our close partners and neighbors to the south, the Placer County Sheriff's Office, have had two of these vehicles in their fleet now for many years and have graciously assisted us with several operations the past few years requiring the need for a more agile and maneuverable armored platform.

Purchasing Policy section 4.6(A) allows for a sole source procurement for product or service which is the only product or service that satisfies the Office's operational requirements, usually because of a technological, specialized, or unique character, or proprietary nature. The County Purchasing Team has reviewed the sole source justification and agrees with this approach.

Initiated by: Rolf Kleinhans
Approved by: Shannan Moon