

DATE ISSUED: October 4, 2004

REPORT NO. 04-220

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of October 6, 2004

SUBJECT: Police Department Crisis Response Teams -
Comprehensive Plan and Cost Analysis from City Manager for
Training and Special Equipment

REFERENCE: (1) City Manager's Report No. 04-189
(2) Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Action Item 4 from its September 22, 2004 meeting

SUMMARY

Issue – Provide support for the Police Crisis Response Teams (CRT) to allow completion of Phase II and III training, which shall include all uniformed patrol officers throughout the City.

Manager's Recommendation – Adopt the proposal as prepared.

Fiscal Impact –The funding required to provide training and special equipment for completion of CRT Phase II and II totals: \$924,043.09.

BACKGROUND

During the presentation of City Manager's Report No. 04-189 regarding the Police Department Crisis Response Teams, the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee approved the following action at its meeting of September 22, 2004:

1. Direct the Manager to return to Committee at the next meeting with a comprehensive plan and cost analysis for equipping each team and eventually each officer, as the Chief determines appropriate, with a Taser.

DISCUSSION

The Police Department has embarked on the development and implementation of Crisis Response Teams (CRT) that feature specially trained and equipped patrol officers in each of the eight area commands who can be on scene within 15 minutes of a call for service. A police response with properly trained and specially equipped officers in the first 15 minutes of a critical incident normally results in a safe resolution to the incident, without the use of deadly force.

The special training includes response and negotiation skills, how to identify and handle persons with mental illness, defensive and team tactics, and the use of the special equipment including the new X-26 Taser and 40mm baton launcher. The overall goal is to provide police officers with the best training and equipment available to safely resolve critical incidents without escalating to the use of deadly force.

The CRT program includes three implementation phases. Phase I of this program has been completed and 56 sergeants and officers from Western Division have received special equipment and training and are currently in field patrol assignments. Phase II includes training and equipment for an additional 352 patrol sergeants and officers from each of the remaining seven patrol commands. At the conclusion of Phase II, 409 sergeants and patrol officers from eight patrol commands will have received the training and be equipped with the special equipment. Phase III includes training and equipment for the remaining 570 patrol officers throughout the City.

The cost of Phase I has been absorbed internally by the existing Police Department budget. The training and equipment expense totaled \$129,756.47. Phase II has been partially funded by the existing Police Department budget at a cost of \$81,868.49 providing for training through December 2004. However, Phase II will require an additional \$358,507.77 prior to December 2004 to purchase equipment and training supplies through November 2005. Phase III remains completely unfunded at this time at a projected cost of \$565,535.32. If funded, Phase III training would begin immediately following the completion of Phase II.

Crisis Response Teams Training Phases and Cost Analysis Totals:

	<u>Funded, Police Budget</u>	<u>Unfunded</u>
Phase I	\$129,756.47	00.00
Phase II	\$81,868.49	\$358,507.77
Phase III	00.00	\$565,535.32
Total Un-funded Cost:		\$924,043.09

The Police Department, with the assistance of Congresswoman Susan Davis and Congressman Duke Cunningham, is continuing efforts to obtain federal funding appropriations to successfully complete Phases II and III. The success of this effort will determine the Police Department's ability to continue this program beyond Phase I and a

portion of Phase II in December 2004. The support from the Mayor and City Council to obtain federal funding appropriations is requested so the Police Department may expand this program to all communities throughout the city of San Diego.

The Police Department is committed to protecting the citizens of San Diego in the safest manner possible. The preservation of human life and public safety is our primary goal. This program provides a solid foundation for police officers to attain this goal by enhancing their skills and ability to resolve potentially lethal confrontations in a non-lethal manner. The expected results include reductions in officer-involved shootings, employee and civilian injuries, and a safer resolution to critical incidents involving people in crisis.

Respectfully submitted,

William Lansdowne
Chief of Police

P. Lamont Ewell
City Manager

LANSDOWNE/jcl