



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Sheriff-Coroner

Subject: Purchase of ANDROS SPARTAN Bomb Robot

Meeting Date: January 14, 2025

Formal Title: Ratify grant application to the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) in the amount of \$350,000 to replace the Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad Unit robot, approve agreement with the City and County of San Francisco for distribution of UASI grant funds, approve purchase of an ANDROS SPARTAN Bomb Robot, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Ratify a grant application to the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) in the amount of \$350,000 for the replacement of a Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad Unit robot;
2. Approve an agreement with the City and County of San Francisco for distribution of UASI grant funds;
3. Adopt a resolution accepting unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$350,000 from UASI;
4. Approve purchase of an ANDROS SPARTAN Bomb Robot in the amount of \$350,000; and
5. Authorize the Sheriff-Coroner to sign the agreement on behalf of the County.

Executive Summary

The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant has been awarded to the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$350,000 to cover the replacement cost of the bomb robot. The Sheriff's Office continuously seeks to enhance its ability to improve the safety of community members in the County of Santa Cruz. The Sheriff's Office requests that the Board ratify the UASI grant application, approve an agreement with the City and County of San Francisco for distribution of UASI grant funds, adopt a resolution accepting and appropriating unanticipated revenue, and approve the purchase of an ANDROS SPARTAN Bomb Robot in the amount \$350,000.

Discussion

Under the authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the UASI program provides financial assistance to address the unique multi-discipline planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas to strengthen capabilities in preventing, protecting against mitigating, responding to, and recovering from acts of terrorism. The Sheriff's Office became aware of funding available through UASI to purchase an ANDROS SPARTAN Bomb Robot.

As the largest law enforcement agency in the county, the County Sheriff's Office plays a critical role in regional public safety. The Sheriff's Bomb Squad Unit, trained in handling hazardous devices, provides essential mutual aid to allied agencies such as Santa Cruz

PD, Watsonville PD, Scotts Valley PD, Capitola PD, UCSC PD, and State Parks. Currently, the Bomb Squad relies on a 20-year-old bomb disposal robot that requires constant maintenance and lacks modern capabilities. To address this, the Sheriff's Office proposes acquiring the ANDROS SPARTAN, a state-of-the-art bomb disposal robot designed to enhance safety and operational effectiveness. The SPARTAN offers advanced features, including:

- A medium size chassis capable of deploying tools for small disruptors and large vehicle countermeasures.
- Remote operation, enabling safer and more effective render-safe procedures without exposing personnel to danger.
- The SPARTAN will significantly improve the Bomb Squad's response to IEDs, vehicle-borne IEDs, and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) threats.

Its enhanced capabilities also ensure reliable mutual aid support for neighboring jurisdictions.

Sole Source Justification

The vendor, REMOTEC/Peraton, is the sole manufacturer and distributor for the ANDROS SPARTAN Bomb Robot. Remotec's technology is proprietary to Remotec, including design, hardware, and software for all Remotec systems including the Spartan and Spartan upgrade. Remotec has approved international Resellers worldwide for New Robot Sales, but no approved Resellers in the United States.

Acquisition of the ANDROS SPARTAN will ensure our Bomb Squad remains equipped to meet modern threats and maintain public safety. We are committed to providing the tools and resources necessary to protect the public and ensure the continued reliability of our mutual aid support for allied agencies.

Financial Impact

Grant revenue will be accepted in GL Key 661200-40894 and appropriated in GL Key 661300-86204 in the amount of \$350,000. This item has no impact on the General Fund. The term of the grant will be from November 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025.

Strategic Initiatives

Equity Framework - Leadership, Operations & Services

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety, Operational Excellence

Submitted By:

Chris Clark

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.