



Department of Administration
Budget and Policy Division

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Sharon Robinson
Administration Director

Mark Nicolini
Budget and Management Director

December 1, 2010

Ref: BF 11-1C

Public Safety Committee
City Hall, Room 205
City of Milwaukee

Subject: Milwaukee Police Department Body Armor

Dear Honorable Members:

The Budget Office requests your support of Common Council File 100928, a resolution reserving up to \$387,587 from the 2010 Contingent Fund for expenditures by the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) relating to body armor replacement. We would like to provide some general background to better explain the unexpected need to replace this body armor.

In May of this year, the MPD brought to our attention that the Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs revised its ballistic resistance of body armor standards. These body armor standards are in accordance to the findings in National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Standard – 0101.06, Ballistic Resistance of Body Armor, a response to a mandate of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

As a result of these guideline changes, there are about 732 pieces of body armor with warranties that expire at the end of 2010 which will not be in compliance with the new standards. Not being in compliance with the new standards does not automatically deem the equipment unsafe. However, the new testing procedure requires firing into all body armor to test its effectiveness, thus rendering it unusable. Previous standards allowed for sample batch testing which preserved safe equipment for continued use.

After discussions with the department, we agree that it would be beneficial to replace those pieces of equipment with expiring warranties. The department has estimated the replacement cost of approximately \$387,587. Since this amount was not budgeted for 2010, it is unlikely existing MPD resources are adequate. We recommend reserving the amount in the Contingent Fund in case there are any funds left available when we close the 2010 books that can be applied to cover this purchase. The 2011 budget does provide adequate funding to replace any body armor that will fall out of compliance with the new standards.

Sincerely,

Mark Nicolini
Budget and Management Director

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