



# City of Margate Police Department

ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Joseph Galaska, Chief of Police

FROM: Sean Cobban, Sergeant, Special Response Team Supervisor

DATE: May 26, 2022

**SUBJECT: Request for the use of impact fees for the expansion of S.R.T. and K-9**

The City of Margate faces a number of significant threats to their residents and critical infrastructure. These threats, such as terrorism, natural disasters, violent crime and mass shootings, require the City's first responders to be constantly prepared and properly equipped for any critical incidents that may occur in the City. In the past year, the Margate Special Response Team (SRT) has expanded the unit and its capabilities in response to critical incidents and violent calls. The unit's expansion over the last year has added two armed SWAT Medics, two precision sharpshooters, two energetic breachers, and one officer. With the additional personnel, the Special Response Team has a staffing level of seventeen officers and two medics. This increase in personnel and capabilities is a direct relationship to the increased calls for service within the City. As the unit has acquired these additional capabilities, the SRT is still underequipped to safely handle and/or manage critical incidents, hostage situations, barricaded subjects, and warrant services.

For the team to safely and effectively carry out its mission of protecting the citizens and critical infrastructure of the City, we must have sufficient equipment to do the job. At this time, however, we lack access to a rescue vehicle(s) and the necessary equipment that we need to accomplish our goals in a safe manner. The acquisition of these vehicles and/or equipment would meet our needs when responding to catastrophic incidents such as natural disasters, civil unrest, violent armed individuals, and terrorist attacks by allowing rescues or evacuations in adverse conditions while protecting the team and civilians from ballistic attacks. Though we have the training and experience to protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to and recover from such events, we lack suitable equipment to sustain our capabilities to do so.

The nation has seen an increase in violent crimes, and officer involved shootings. We have experienced this increase in the City of Margate, recently having two officer-involved shootings within a six-month period. At one of these events, we had to borrow safety equipment from neighboring jurisdictions, greatly increasing time passing before being able to take safe actions. As the SRT is responsible for responding to all incidents that exceed the capability of patrol within the City, including terrorist attacks, hostage situations, barricaded subjects, and mass shooting incidents, we respectfully request the following necessary vehicles and equipment for the expansion of police protection.

- 1) Terradyne Armored Rescue Vehicle, \$ 371,050 (SOLE SOURCE)
- 2) Inkas Armored Sprinter Van, \$180,000.00 (GSA)\*
- 3) Flymotion (Spot) Robot with Articulating Arm, \$ 224,728.00 (SOLE SOURCE)
- 4) Twenty Units, Peltor Comtac VI Headsets, \$18,465.80
- 5) Two Rifle Rated Ballistic Shields, \$11,610.00 (SOLE SOURCE)
- 6) Ford F-150 K-9 Vehicle \$71,583.56, (Enterprise Fleet Management Contract)
- 7) Missing Person K-9 (\$14,000) and Training (\$12,500), plus equipment, supplies, and kennel total cost not to exceed \$38,500.00 (TBD)

**The total cost of the requested items are estimated at \$915,937.36, however due to the changing costs, shipping, and market fluctuations we are requesting a total amount not to exceed \$925,000.00**

**1) The Terradyne Armored Rescue Vehicle** provides superior ballistic protection to the occupants from several types of ballistic, projectile, and explosive threats seen in recent events around the United States. The vehicle would allow our team to deploy directly into hot zones to respond to ongoing emergencies without having to wait on outside agencies to respond with their armored vehicles. In a critical incident, time and the lack of resources can cost lives. Additionally, the vehicle offers four-wheel drive capability and the potential to reach highway speeds, helping us to respond to calls throughout the City quickly in all road conditions. These capabilities will allow us to work off road, while the tire package will remain durable enough to handle years of duty within Margate's more densely populated communities. The off-road capabilities, along with the vehicle's heightened ground clearance will enable us to maneuver over road debris in the aftermath of natural disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires and to navigate flood prone roadways along the Stranahan River or any of the numerous area along waterways. The vehicle can carry up to 12 or more operators in full tactical gear and can fit up to 20 civilians in need of rescue or evacuation from violent incidents or natural disasters.

**The Terradyne Rescue Vehicle is a sole-source item, and below is the justification and several reasons we are requesting the Terradyne vehicle as compared to similar armored vehicles:**

- It was determined the Terradyne has more headspace and overall room inside, allowing more operators to sit inside the vehicle.

- This vehicle has also been rated and recommended by the National Tactical Officer's Association who sets the national standards for the entire country.
- It has a more rugged body and durable tires.
- The vehicle is equipped with ballistic rated skip shield that deploys from under the frame of the vehicle from inside the cabin without exposure from outside the vehicle. Currently this is the only ballistic rated vehicle that offers this type of proprietary system.
- The ballistic rated glass installed in this vehicle is currently the only vehicle that offers the owner the ability to change out the glass in case of ballistic impact.
- This vehicle has superior ballistic protection than other comparable vehicles when impacted with high power rifle cartridges depending on the degree of impact angles as well as multi-hit capabilities.

Additionally, it offers the following additional accessories:

- Four remote control spotlights that are capable of providing lighting in darkened areas and assisting us in search and rescue operations.
- A hydraulic ram that can be attached to the front of the vehicle to allow officers to breach barricaded structures without exposing any personnel to potential gunfire.
- An inside/outside intercom system will allow negotiators to communicate with armed suspects from the safety of the vehicle.
- A high capacity winch will assist us in rescue situations and will allow us to remove obstacles from roadways to mitigate delays in response time.
- Roof mounted Pan/Tilt/30x Zoom CCD color camera, thermal sensor, 9 inch touch screen monitor with 256 GB DVR, 15 inch rear monitor.
- And lastly, several members of the Special Response Team visited the City of Port Saint Lucie's Police Department, who currently have this vehicle, and it was thoroughly inspected and tested. Considering all of the above, including items above that are only available on the Terradyne Rescue Vehicle, it was determined unanimously to be the best fit for our department's operational and additional safety needs.

In addition to protecting officers and civilians from ballistic attack, the Rescue and Response Vehicle will also increase cooperative efforts amongst area first responders, improving our teams' ability to respond to terrorist attacks, civil unrests, natural disasters or other mass casualty events. With this vehicle, we will be able to provide better protection while EMS units attempt to treat the wounded in volatile areas. The vehicle's various features allow the tactical teams to work with paramedics and fire units in performing rescues in adverse conditions. During hurricanes, standard emergency response vehicles are not able to deploy due to high winds, or in the storm's aftermath when our fire trucks and ambulances are not able to access affected areas due to flooding or debris.

Considering how many recent mass shootings occurred in crowded areas, the ability to utilize a vehicle capable of protecting officers and civilians from ballistic attacks could not be more important to Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention (LETP) efforts. Additionally, the vehicle can

also support LETP efforts by acting as a mobile means of target hardening. Due to its many protective features, the vehicle can be used to protect outdoor events from the type of vehicle-based attacks that have been seen both domestically and internationally over the past several years.

In 2020, Broward County had multiple protests in reference to the death of George Floyd, which resulted in the Margate Police Department establishing a Field Force unit, which is comprised of 17 Officers, which has since been disbanded. During a protest in the City of Coral Springs, the SRT was deployed to assist the City of Coral Springs SWAT Team, but with our lack of an armored rescue vehicle, we had to stage at Coral Springs Police Department in their armored vehicle. This presented some problems of having adequate protection for all officers who were staging at this location. The two combined teams were composed of more than 35 officers. The Terradyne Armored Rescue Vehicle could also be used to work in deployments of protest or violent civil unrest as seen in Fort Lauderdale, Miami, and other parts of the county.

**2) The Armored Sprinter Van** is a 2022 Mercedes-Benz brand *Sprinter Cargo Van* which would provide additional ballistic protection to officers when the use of multi-vehicle operations are needed. The van does not have the level of ballistic protection as the Terradyne Armored Rescue Vehicle, but provides level III protection against commonly used rifle rounds like 7.62x51mm, allowing it to go into a warm zone. The team's current vehicle, which is similar to a UPS delivery truck in size and layout, is 16 years old, offers no ballistic protection, and has continuous maintenance issues. The sprinter van would provide a safe platform for a Tactical Command Post and the insertion of officers into a warm zone during a critical incident. The vans primary purpose will be to safely insert up to 14 officers, having ballistic protection, and provide a tactical command post.

***This Armored Sprinter Van is GSA contract item.***

**3) The Flymotion/Boston Dynamics *Spot Robot*** is developed by Boston Dynamics and provided by Flymotion. It brings countless possibilities for the future to enhance public safety, government, defense, and enterprise operations as an unmanned ground vehicle. Spot's dynamic programmability also allows third-party payloads to be integrated into Spot with the use of the software development kit (SDK). Whether the mission at hand is rescue, inspection, threat assessment, navigation, locating a barricade subject. Spot goes where wheeled robots cannot while carrying a variety of payloads. With 360° vision and obstacle avoidance, the robot can be driven remotely or taught routes and actions to perform autonomous missions. Spot arm enables mobile manipulation for tasks like opening doors and grasping objects. Spot would be an invaluable resource where SRT could deploy it into a hot zone, looking for an armed barricaded subject without risking lives. Spots ability to deliver payloads like water, food, or a cell phone in a hostage situation, could provide critical intelligence through its multiple cameras, all without risking a life.

Spot could also be used as a two-way communication device between a subject and negotiators with its built in cameras and audio.

<https://www.bostondynamics.com/products/spot>

***The Flymotion/Boston Dynamics Spot Robot is a sole-source item, and below is the justification and several reasons we are requesting this robot as compared to similar purpose robots:***

- All other tactical robots on the market do not have independent “legs” that make the unit spry, instead most other tactical robots have wheels or tracks which get stuck on carpeting, thresholds and many other various objects encountered in terrain or inside buildings or homes.
- This robot is the only one that has the ability to open doors and utilize appendages independently to hold open a door after opening it.
- It can climb and descend stairs.
- Can payload specialized sensors to detect radiological and nuclear material, toxic gases, and other hazardous materials. Spot helps field operators identify and assess Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) threats from a safe stand-off distance, traversing unpredictable terrain and collecting data about the risk.
- Investigate suspicious packages and suspected explosives with Spot while maintaining a safe perimeter. Integrate sensors to measure oxygen levels of potentially explosive environments or detect explosive materials. Equipped with cameras, x-ray devices, and the Spot Arm, Spot enables Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technicians to safely inspect suspicious packages.
- It can gather valuable information to support response teams and facilitate remote negotiations, reducing risk to first responders and the public. In active shooter or hostage situations, Spot can help first responders establish visual and two-way communications, so they can gather the information needed to de-escalate the situation and keep officers and bystanders out of harm’s way.

The above versatile usage makes the unique Sole Source item the best fit for what we at the Margate Police Department would use it for, coupled with our experiences of the failure of other types of non-appendage robots.

**4) Liberator IV Tactical Communications Headset** is designed for law enforcement and military operations requiring auditory situational awareness, face-to-face communications that have the ability to amplify ambient sound while simultaneously digitally cutting out harmful sounds such as gunshots and diversionary devices. Communications would be able to continue over the radio even during gunfire. These headsets have a boom microphone attached to allow the operator to clearly speak and send radio transmissions all while having the benefit of quality hearing

protection. The hearing protection and radio transmission technology has vastly improved since we purchased our current headsets over 10 years ago. Over the last year, along with adding individuals to the team, our current headset are obsolete in function, comfort, technology, and are physically deteriorating. All of the current headset have already been repaired over the years, some even two times. At this time, several officers are using their patrol earpieces because their tactical headsets are not functional, leaving them susceptible to permanent hearing damage. The purchase of new hearing protection/communication devices are needed, and would serve multiple purposes from operational deployments to providing a use during firearms training at the range. Additionally, the headsets are designed with the military and SWAT teams in mind and are designed to attach to the side rails of our ballistic helmets.

**Liberator IV Tactical Communications Headset was selected due to it being the cheaper option and the only company that currently has this type of headset available due to the shortage of computer chips throughout the world.**

**5) The Rifle Rated Ballistic Shields** offer small element teams within SRT protection against armor piercing rounds, which are wildly available to the public and legal for commercial sale. The ballistic vest the operators use, do not offer this protection. The shields will provide additional protection and time to the officers in a violent encounter with an armed subject, where vehicles cannot get to, like inside schools, hospitals, and large interior venues. With the increased crime rates and violent crime in the last year, these shields would be invaluable to the offers. Our current shields only offer pistol caliber protection, but with the increasingly wide use of rifle caliber weapons being used in critical incidents and mass shootings, these are necessary for small element teams to safely advance/work down long liner problems like hallways in hospitals, schools, churches, and even county buses.

**This item is a sole-source item, and there is no other like items available to purchase that serve the same purpose or function. We currently do not have any items that protect against rifle rounds.**

**6) Ford F-150 K-9 Vehicle** is the only pursuit-rated pickup truck on the market. It offers more room for the dog enabling him to jump in and not have to immediately turn his body to the rear of the vehicle as in the current sedan and smaller SUV type vehicles owned by the City, saving wear and tear on the joints in the dog's hips, shoulders, and legs over the numerous times he gets in and out of the vehicle. We have discovered that many surrounding jurisdictions are moving to the F-150 pickup truck for these reasons as the industry standard. The F-150 also provides flexibility with deployment of the dog during SRT response incidents that make our current K-9 vehicles useable due to the low ground clearance of our current K-9 vehicles.

**This vehicle is the only pursuit rated pickup truck, which could be obtained by our current vendor Enterprise Leasing. We would be purchasing this vehicle and it would not be part of the lease program. Enterprise Fleet Management Contract Pricing.**

**7) Missing persons K-9** is a tool that has become increasing more popular and necessary to help cope with the increasing amount of calls the department has received to help recover missing elderly and children who have wandered away from their homes. Alzheimer's disease is a devastating ailment that cripples the memory of individuals. Over time these citizens lose more and more of their memory and caring for them becomes increasingly difficult. Many times these patients leave their homes undetected and are unable to find their way back. Having a K-9 to help track these patients will help reunite them with family members much quicker without any unnecessary harm to the individual. Another useful tool for the use of a missing persons K-9 is to assist in the location of autistic children. We have seen a significant increase in the amount of children who suffer from autism. There are times when these children wander away from home and at times they are non-verbal. This can cause a great delay in finding these children and the use of a specially trained K-9 will help assist in locating them in a timelier fashion. This type of K-9 will also be trained in the detection of firearms, to help locate any weapons that may be carried by persons, especially in schools. This position is geared towards a supervisor as we have a growing K-9 unit with the Margate Police Department.

**This item has only one local vendor, which could we have always used for past purchases. The total of \$38,500 would cover the cost of the K-9 dog, training, kennel, and equipment.**

### **Justifications for expanding capabilities of SRT and K-9.**

SRT has jurisdiction throughout the City of Margate, a 9.09 square mile municipality with a growing population of 58,712 residents. Through mutual aid agreements, we will also be able to use it to respond to any call for aid within Broward County, a 1,323 square mile region with 1,951,260 residents.

There are numerous examples of critical infrastructure in and around the City of Margate that these vehicles and equipment could protect from terrorist attacks or other threats. Potential targets include:

- Margate has 15 schools located throughout the city: 1 public middle school, 3 public elementary schools, 1 alternative school, 5 public charter schools, and 5 private schools.
- Northwest Medical Center is a 228-bed facility with an ER and radiology equipment.

- The City of Margate has several governmental buildings throughout the city along with water a water treatment facility.

The availability of these vehicles and equipment allow the SRT to respond as appropriate, upon request, to assist other agencies with similar critical infrastructure such as:

- Ft. Lauderdale International Airport is a 1,380-acre facility with two runways and four terminals that serves over 25 million passengers a year. In 2017, the SRT responded to a county wide mutual aid request by the Broward Sheriff's Office in reference to an active shooter incident, which resulted in five people being killed and six others injured in the shooting. The Margate Special Response Team was tasked with clearing two, multi-level parking garages and the terminal where the shooting took place.
- The BB&T Center is a 20,000-seat capacity arena hosting NHL games, concerts and other events.
- Port Everglades is a 33-berth facility that handles over 25 million tons of cargo per year and is the busiest container port in Florida and one of the busiest cruise ship terminals in the country.
- The North Campus of Broward College has a 113-acre facility and is located in the City of Coconut Creek.

The SRT has been involved in numerous high-risk call outs that show this jurisdiction's vulnerability. This includes our responses to a number of armed barricaded individuals that forced the team to request armored rescue vehicles from other agencies. These incidents were prolonged standoffs with armed individuals. As well to more catastrophic incidents such as hurricanes and the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, in which a gunman killed 17 people and wounded another 17. During the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018, Officers from the Margate Police Department responded to the incident. Officers using unmarked pickup trucks had to drive into the hot zone to load and evacuate wounded individuals. These officers' actions, which were heroic, left them greatly exposed to possible rifle fire.

In the last year, our department has relied on other local agencies like Coral Springs Police Department, Hollywood Police Department, and the Broward Sheriff's Office to provide these type of vehicles and/or resources in support of our SRT. These such events and more, show the need for our department/Special Response Team to expand its police protection through the purchase of the listed equipment and vehicles.

The City of Margate experiences crime that is comparable to surrounding jurisdictions and lies in a region that is considered "High Risk for damage caused by Hurricanes and Flooding" (AttomData 2018 U.S. Natural Disaster Housing Risk Report). Despite these facts, the only vehicle we currently have access to when performing tactical operations is a standard box truck. While



this vehicle does provide space for transporting our personnel to and from call outs, it fails to provide any protection from ballistic or projectile attacks, increasing the risk of serious injury or death to operators and civilians during critical incidents. In addition, the truck does not possess four-wheel drive capability, preventing it from being used on assignments in rural or remote areas where we may encounter rough terrain or in the aftermath of natural disasters when area roadways may be damaged, severely limiting its effectiveness as a rescue vehicle. Considering the recent terrorist attacks and mass shooting incidents in such places as Colorado Springs, San Bernardino, Orlando, Las Vegas and El Paso, this lack of capability fails to prepare our team to respond to and protect our citizens from the type of serious threats that could face our city at any time.

With the acquisition of these resources and equipment, SRT will be better equipped to handle calls throughout the City, and will have better protection to help prepare us for any type of attack that may occur.

To sustain the capabilities supporting these requests, we will provide our team with regular training so that we can build and maintain a high level of proficiency. Our department will maintain the vehicles so that they remain in a constant state of operational readiness and we will use our own resources to provide regular upkeep so that the vehicles lasts its expected 10-15 years.

Multiple federal government agencies have complimented the effectiveness of this type of vehicles in responding to critical incidents. They affirm its capability to protect responding personnel and citizenry during Haz-Mat and mass casualty incidents. Furthermore, these agencies and law enforcement agencies throughout the country currently use these vehicles as a key tool to prevent acts of terrorism. The SRT needs this equipment so that we can continue to protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to and recover from violent individuals, terrorism, civil unrest, and natural disasters within the City. This investment will increase integration among first responders allowing us to protect against the widest variety of hazards so that we can fulfill our duty to safeguard the residents and businesses in the City, and surrounding communities.

Some of the equipment, like the two vehicles and “Spot”, could be used in community policing projects like National Night Out and school demonstrations. SRT would use the vehicles as static displays to promote the expansion of the department and the resources it has to protect the residence and visitors to the city. Tactical demonstrations would show the public how these tools greatly improve our ability to handle critical incidents. Demonstrations with “Spot” in schools would show advancements in technology with the agency as well as robotics. These interactions with young minds would promote a positive and healthy interaction between students and law enforcement promoting community relations, robotics advancement, and even possibly recruitment opportunities.

The total cost of the requested items are estimated at \$915,937.36, however due to the changing costs, shipping, and market fluctuations we are requesting a total amount not to exceed \$925,000.00

