Item No. 8(f)
June 15, 2009

# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

**Subject:**

Resolution No. 7936 authorizing execution of a $122,957.55 contract with VirTra Systems to purchase a Police Small Arms Training Simulator.

**Fiscal Impact:**
Signing this contract will obligate the City to pay $122,957.55, including Washington State Sales Tax, for the purchase of a Police small arms training simulator. The source of funding for this purchase is the Equipment Rental Fund (ERF). Sufficient funds exist in the ERF for this replacement.

**Staff Contact:**

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| Linda Pillo, Police Chief | 452-4334 |
| Jim Jolliffe, Captain | 452-4443 |
| Carl Krikorian, Fiscal Manager | 452-6961 |

***Police Department***

## POLICY CONSIDERATION

Should the City execute a $122,957.55 purchase agreement with VirTra Systems for a Police Small Arms Training Simulator?

A firearm simulator is used by the Police Department to enhance the skills that are developed in a traditional shooting range. The simulator assists the instructor in evaluating overall shooting strengths and weaknesses; improve target acquisition and marksmanship; and, most importantly, stress the officer on judgment and decision making (shoot/don't shoot.) Shooting live rounds in a shooting range is one dimensional and only measures the ability to hit a paper target in a static environment. A shooting incident on the street is vastly different, incorporating stress, decision making and other external factors that affect shooting accuracy. Nationwide, the average hit ratio for officer-involved shootings is 20%. The Police Department recognizes the potential danger to our community from errant shots and is committed to giving our officers the best training available, blending traditional range training with virtual simulation training. This blend also saves costs in the form of purchasing ammunition, travel time and wear and tear on our shooting range.

The Police Department's current firearms simulator was purchased in June 1995. This system is a one-dimensional, scenario-based system that supplements live-fire exercises in the Police shooting range. It is now outdated and the vendor has gone out of business so the system cannot get necessary repairs.

New generation shooting simulators offer enhanced features such as 180-degree (or greater) field of view in high-definition, a Windows based operating system, tethered weapons in a variety of weapon types, play-back capability for instant feedback for instructor and students, competition and low light features, as well as a wide variety of scenario-based modules.

The Department has evaluated several current simulators and has determined that the VirTra Systems Small Arms Training Simulator is the only product that meets departmental requirements for modern-day training on small arms and other firearms. It is a 180-degree video simulator that can be expanded to a 360-degree system at a later date, if desired. It is portable and designed and coded to be used with very little advanced training. It will be installed in the Police Emergency Operations conference room, so it can be utilized by officers on a 24/7 basis.

The simulator includes a library of various law enforcement scenarios and drills, and trains officers in marksmanship, weapons manipulation, and combat shooting skills. It is the only manufacturer of multi-screen video-based firearm training equipment. Industry and law enforcement research has demonstrated that the VirTra system has improved shooting proficiency for other Police Departments, will reduce the necessity of training with live ammunition, and will extend the life of the existing Police shooting range.

The Police Department's Firearms Trainer and Range Master has tested several other interactive simulators (AIS, IES, FATS, and Laser Shot) and none of them offer a 180-degree (and up to 360- degree) video simulations; nor do they have the ability to offer a simulated recoil of rifles, pistols, and shotguns, and most do not offer the simulation in High Definition. Because of the necessity of having these extensive features, a Competitive Exception to the City's purchasing guidelines has been approved by Finance and the City Attorney's Office. In addition, the City posted a "Notice of Intent to Contract without a Call for Bids" in two local publications and received only one response, which was evaluated and found to be inadequate for the Department's needs.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

If approved by the Council, this Resolution will be effective immediately.

## OPTIONS

1. Adopt Resolution No. 7936, authorizing execution of a $122,957.55 purchase agreement with VirTra Systems for a Police Small Arms Training Simulator, using existing MERF replacement funds.

2. Do not adopt Resolution No. 7936 and provide alternative direction to staff.

## RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. 7936, authorizing execution of a $122,957.55 purchase agreement with VirTra Systems for a Police Small Arms Training Simulator, using existing MERF replacement funds.

## MOTION

Adopt Resolution No. 7936, authorizing execution of a $122,957.55 purchase agreement with VirTra Systems for a Police Small Arms Training Simulator, using existing MERF replacement funds.

## ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 7936

## AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL OFFICE

Proposed Purchasing Agreement

2159-RES
6/9/2009

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 7936

A RESOLUTION authorizing execution of a purchase agreement with VirTra Systems, in an amount not to exceed $122,957.55, for purchase of a Police Small Arms Training Simulator.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Manager or his designee is hereby authorized to execute a purchase agreement with VirTra Systems, in an amount not to exceed $122,957.55, for purchase of a Police Small Arms Training Simulator, a copy of which purchase agreement has been given Clerk's Receiving No. _____.

Passed by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2009, and signed in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2009.

(SEAL)

_____
Grant S. Degginger, Mayor

Attest:

_____
Myrna L. Basich, City Clerk