

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**  
**FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL**

**ITEM NUMBER: 7**

**DATE: October 16, 2007**

**STAFF: Jerry Schiager**

**SUBJECT**

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Second Reading of Ordinance No. 107, 2007, Appropriating Unanticipated Grant Revenue and Prior Year Reserves in the General Fund to Purchase an Armored Rescue Vehicle for Police Services.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on October 2, 2007, appropriates federal grant funding Police Services has received to purchase an armored rescue vehicle. This vehicle will significantly improve the safety of citizens and police officers in encounters with armed suspects by giving police the ability to move people out of dangerous areas, block armed offenders from the ability to shoot at citizens, and safely transport police officers on their approach to dangerous scenes.

**ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Copy of First Reading Agenda Item Summary - October 2, 2007.

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

ITEM NUMBER: 12

DATE: October 2, 2007

STAFF: Jerry Schiager

COPY

#### SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 107, 2007, Appropriating Unanticipated Grant Revenue and Prior Year Reserves in the General Fund to Purchase an Armored Rescue Vehicle for Police Services.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

The City has received the following combination of three funding sources specifically for the purchase of this vehicle:

2005 Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program	\$ 64,888
2005 State Homeland Security Program	\$ 12,755
Larimer County Drug Task Force seized assets of narcotics offenders	<u>\$ 48,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$125,643</b>

The total vehicle cost including shipping is \$203,529. The remaining balance of \$77,886 will be paid from Police Services operating budget.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Police Services has applied for federal grant funding to purchase an armored rescue vehicle for the past three years and has recently been awarded funding for over 60% of the expense. This vehicle will significantly improve the safety of citizens and police officers in encounters with armed suspects by giving police the ability to move people out of dangerous areas, block armed offenders from the ability to shoot at citizens, and safely transport police officers on their approach to dangerous scenes. The vehicle is very professional in appearance and resembles a small ambulance, which is preferable in this environment to a military-looking armored personnel carrier. It will be routinely deployed on high risk police operations to increase the margin of safety for citizens and police officers.

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**BACKGROUND**

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The Police Services SWAT Team responds to a variety of high-risk incidents including assisting neighboring jurisdictions. The Team is deployed 30-50 times per year to serve high risk narcotics warrants, respond to armed suspects who are threatening the safety of citizens and resolve an occasional hostage situation. The need to have a resource for moving people in a vehicle that would protect the occupants from gunfire and explosives has been recognized for several years. This includes moving citizens from dangerous areas, evacuating injured police officers or citizens from the line of fire, and deploying SWAT officers on high risk operations.

Over the past few years the Team has responded to several situations in which this vehicle would have provided a significant margin of safety for police officers and citizens. These include a suspect sitting on the hill at City Park with an assault rifle, a suicidal young Marine in Loveland who was sitting on the curb of a subdivision with a rifle, a suicidal suspect with a shotgun stopped in his vehicle in Campus West, armed suspects who shot at police from a rural house, an armed suspect on the patio of a restaurant overlooking the mall and a suspect firing a handgun in front of a house in a south Fort Collins neighborhood. In each of these incidents, the ability to move a vehicle capable of protecting police officers and citizens from gunfire into the area would have been of great assistance in safely resolving the situation. In addition, the vehicle offers protection to responders in situations involving explosives threats.

Staff has researched many ways to meet this need including obtaining a surplus military vehicle, refurbishing a used bank truck and purchasing a new vehicle from a number of different manufacturers. The vehicle that is requested is the Lenco BearCat, which is commercially made for this purpose. It is small and maneuverable and has a very professional appearance. It looks more like a small ambulance than a military vehicle. It has no weapons mounted on it and can be easily driven on city streets without creating the appearance of a military operation. The vehicle is built on a Ford F550 chassis and has a steel body capable of defeating any normally available firearm ammunition or explosive. It is four-wheel drive, enabling it to be maneuverable on many types of terrain. It will hold 10 people inside on side benches and can also be used to transport a medical stretcher. The manufacturer has built hundreds of these vehicles for police departments and government agencies around the country.

This vehicle will greatly improve the safety of police officers and citizens in this small corner of an increasingly dangerous society. City Council approval of this Ordinance will allow Police Services to take advantage of outside funding for the purchase of this needed resource.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Photo of Lenco BearCat.

ORDINANCE NO. 107, 2007  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
APPROPRIATING UNANTICIPATED GRANT REVENUE AND PRIOR  
YEAR RESERVES IN THE GENERAL FUND TO PURCHASE AN ARMORED  
RESCUE VEHICLE FOR POLICE SERVICES

WHEREAS, Fort Collins Police Services has identified a need for a vehicle with the capability to move and protect people from injury resulting from gunfire or explosives; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Collins Police Services Special Weapons and Tactics Team is deployed 30 to 50 times a year to serve high risk narcotics warrants, respond to armed suspects who are threatening the safety of Fort Collins citizens and to resolve occasional hostage situations; and

WHEREAS, Police Services has applied for federal grant funding from the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program and the State Homeland Security Program the past three years and has received two grants (the "Federal Grants") to purchase an armored rescue vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the chosen armored rescue vehicle is being purchased through a federal General Services Administration contract and its total cost, including shipping, is \$203,529; and

WHEREAS, the following funding sources have been identified:

2005 Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program Grant	\$ 64,888
2005 State Homeland Security Program Grant	\$ 12,755
Larimer County Drug Task Force Reserves	\$ 48,000
2007 Police Operating Budget	<u>\$ 77,886</u>
Total	\$203,529

and

WHEREAS, the Federal Grants and the Larimer County Drug Task Force Reserves need to be appropriated for expenditure; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 9, of the Charter of the City of Fort Collins permits the City Council to make supplemental appropriations by ordinance at any time during the fiscal year, provided that the total amount of such supplemental appropriations, in combination with all previous appropriations for that fiscal year, does not exceed the current estimate of actual and anticipated revenues to be received during the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, City staff have determined that the appropriation of the Federal Grants as described herein will not cause the total amount appropriated in the General Fund to exceed the current estimate of actual and anticipated revenues to be received in that fund during any fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 9, of the Charter permits the City Council to appropriate by ordinance at any time during the fiscal year such funds for expenditure as may be available from

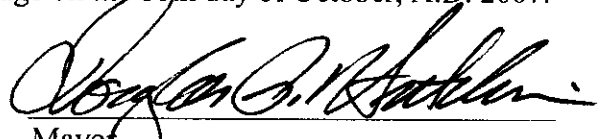
reserves accumulated in prior years, notwithstanding that such reserves were not previously appropriated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. That there is hereby appropriated from unanticipated grant revenue in the General Fund the sum of SEVENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$77,643) for expenditure in the General Fund to purchase an armored rescue vehicle.

Section 2. That there is hereby appropriated from prior year reserves in the General Fund the sum of FORTY-EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$48,000) for expenditure in the General Fund to purchase an armored rescue vehicle.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading, and ordered published this 2nd day of October, A.D. 2007, and to be presented for final passage on the 16th day of October, A.D. 2007.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Chief Deputy City Clerk

Passed and adopted on final reading on the 16th day of October, A.D. 2007.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk