



AGENDA ITEM #: 21-136  
COUNCIL MTG OF: November 2, 2021  
FROM: David Caron, Town Administrator  
OFFERED BY: Chief Edward B. Garone  
PREPARED BY: Capt. George Feole  
SUBJECT: Pistol Conversion/RDS Optics Project

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## STAFF REPORT

**PURPOSE:** Utilize surplus funds from the Police Detail Revolving fund to allow for the purchase of 9MM pistols, ammunition, holsters, red dot sights, flashlights, and iron sights. Utilize funds for providing the necessary training to our officers.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:** The availability of surplus funds in this Revolving Fund allows the Town to enhance its equipment necessary for police officers to fulfill their duties, including those associated with police details, without impacting the annual budget or the Capital Improvements Plan. The Town charges a set rate for its police details as determined in July of each year, which covers salary and benefits, including retirement costs. Surplus is accumulated in this fund as some details are filled by junior officers who cannot, by state statute, add this compensation to their retirement funding.

**BACKGROUND:** Derry Police officers are currently equipped with .40 caliber pistols which were purchased in 2015. Those pistols are approaching a point where a maintenance refresh will be needed for each weapon that will involve new night sights, new magazines, and new recoil spring assemblies. That maintenance cycle will be approximately the same cost as purchasing a new pistol.

The department is seeking to transition to a 9MM pistol and acquire red dot optics for each pistol. The 9MM pistols will be beneficial because advances in ammunition design provide for the same ballistic performance with 9MM ammunition as the .40 caliber ammunition. The 9MM ammunition is cheaper than .40 caliber ammunition. Qualification scores for officers generally increase with 9MM over the .40 Caliber pistol. Red dot optics generally increase accuracy as well. A Norwich University study concluded that a red dot optic, was more effective than traditional iron sights. The results suggested that trainees in law enforcement specialties may gain proficiency more efficiently. Pistol flashlights will be upgraded at the same time.

The new pistols will require the acquisition of new holsters to fit the new pistol as well as iron sights so that officers can co-witness their RDS or Iron Sight depending on the situation presented.

The police department has been operating the Police Detail Revolving fund for 4 years. That account has a balance as of 10/18/21 of \$233,931.63 however, of that, there are outstanding AR in the amount of \$18,582.85. Thus, the net is \$215,348.78.

Due to current demand for ammunition nationwide it is anticipated that the acquisition of the needed ammunition could be as much as 12-18 months. As a result, we will need to delay the purchase of the pistols until we have the ammunition so we can facilitate a trade in of our existing inventory.

**DISCUSSION:** Costs for the project are anticipated to be;

Pistols: \$31,686.00, less trade allowance of existing inventory \$20,300.00. Net cost of \$11,386.

Purchase of the pistols is not anticipated for at least a year. Pricing is estimated.

Optics: \$31,266.27.

Holsters: \$9,220.90.

Flashlights: \$6,276.40, less trade value of existing inventory \$900.00. Net cost of \$5,376.40.

Iron Sights: \$4,843.62.

Ammunition: \$26,700.30.

Training: \$25,903.68.

The net project cost is approximately \$114,697.17.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** All the funds needed to facilitate the purchase of the equipment noted and provide the training, are requested from the Police Detail Revolving Fund. Those funds are not raised via tax dollars, but by a revenue stream for police details. The project as laid out will have no negative affect on the tax rate.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL:** Authorize the Town Administrator to expend funds from the Police Detail Revolving Fund to facilitate the project to acquire the equipment noted and provide the necessary training as listed in the staff report.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** See Resolution #21-068

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