



City of Virginia Beach

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DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
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BUILDING 11
2509 PRINCESS ANNE ROAD
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23468

March 17, 2014

Re: Acquisition of an Armored Personnel Carrier

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as a formal request regarding the acquisition of an Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) for the Virginia Beach Police Department.

The City of Virginia Beach is located in the Hampton Roads area and covers 297 square miles. The population of Virginia Beach is approximately 447,000 with anywhere from 2-3 million visitors who visit our resort area during the summer season each year. Virginia Beach Public Schools is the largest school division in the region with 56 elementary schools, 14 middle schools, 11 high schools, and a number of secondary/post-secondary specialty centers. Virginia Beach is home to Tidewater Community College, Virginia Wesleyan College, CBN University, ECPI, Bryant & Stratton College, several satellite facilities, and several higher education institutions. Virginia Beach is also home to a number of military bases including Master Jet Base Oceana Naval Air Station, Dam Neck Base, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek & Fort Story, Camp Pendleton National Guard Base, a large contingent of the east coast's SEAL Teams, and the families of service members who work within these bases. Being part of the Hampton Roads region we have Memorandums of Understanding with these bases and are prepared to assist a number of other jurisdictions, such as the cities of Norfolk, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Suffolk, etc. We have trained with and are prepared to assist security entities associated with the Surry Nuclear Power Plant just miles outside of our city in the event of an attack on the facility.

Virginia Beach is a CALEA Accredited Police Department that consists of an approved sworn strength of 806 officers performing law enforcement, criminal investigations, and special operations activities. We are also home to the largest Project Lifesaver Program in the country. The Operations Division of the Virginia Beach Police Department is responsible for the uniformed patrol functions of the organization providing a wide variety of law enforcement services to include 24-hour response to calls for service as first responders, the investigation of crimes, traffic control and enforcement, accident

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investigation, community policing and mental health (Crisis Intervention Team) programs, crime prevention functions, special event staffing, and special operations. During the calendar year 2013, the Virginia Beach Police Department responded to 179,974 calls for service.


Each call for service has the potential of becoming a high risk situation for the officers involved. As first responders to domestic disturbances, active shooters, issues involving mental illness, as well as high risk surveillance and takedowns, barricade situations, hostage situations, and SWAT call-out situations, the safety of our officers would be greatly enhanced should our department be granted an APC/MRAP. While our officers are among the most professional in the country, they are not immune to significant risk. Our SWAT members conducted more than 45 high risk operations in 2013 which included warrant services, barricade situations, high risk surveillance/takedowns, and dignitary/executive protection. In 2012 our officers were tasked with protective details prompted by the visits of a number of presidential candidates, including President Barack Obama during the election season.

City budgetary restraints prevent the purchase of an armored personnel carrier for the foreseeable future. We currently have in our inventory a Lenco Bearcat (smaller APC) that our SWAT members utilize on all high risk calls. This vehicle is getting older and is incapable of transporting all sixteen SWAT members and two SWAT sergeants. This means that only half of our SWAT members can be transported within hot zones at any given time under the cover of an APC.

Our city has a fully staffed garage for the maintenance of an APC/MRAP. Our Garage Fleet Manager has been directly involved in this acquisition process and has agreed to make all necessary arrangements and take full responsibility for the delivery of the APC if awarded.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



James A. Cervera
Chief of Police

JAC/bdg