

# Alameda County Sheriff's Office

Lakeside Plaza, 1401 Lakeside Drive, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-4305



Gregory J. Ahern, Sheriff

Coroner - Public Administrator - Marshal  
Director of Emergency Services

AGENDA ITEM \_\_\_\_\_ July 21, 2009

July 8, 2009

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County Administration Building  
1221 Oak Street  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST WAIVER OF THE COUNTY COMPETITIVE BID PROCESS**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is respectfully requested that your Honorable Board waive the competitive bidding process and authorize a purchase order in the amount of \$410,000 for an explosive response robot (TALON) provided by FOSTER-MILLER, INC., located at 350 Second Avenue, Waltham MA 02451, represented by William Ribich, President and CEO.

**SUMMARY/DISCUSSION/FINDINGS:**

In December 2008, your Board approved the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (OHSES) to accept grant funding for the FY2008 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) to build on the progress made toward enhancing the capabilities of law enforcement, emergency medical and management services, public works and public health to respond to acts of terrorism involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) weapons. It was identified that funding from this program would be used towards purchasing equipment (which included a CBRNE response robot) to enhance preparedness throughout Alameda County.

The Alameda County Anti-Terrorism Approval Body has already approved the purchase of a CBRNE rated response robot in order to increase the response capabilities of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad. Funds totaling \$410,000 have been earmarked from the FY2008 State Homeland Security Grant Program for this purchase.

Although competition exists for CBRNE rated response robots, FOSTER-MILLER, INC was previously chosen to supply a robot to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad. The Alameda County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad has spent a considerable amount of time and money

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on training its squad members in this particular robot's operational functions. Due to the functional differences in robotic platforms, FOSTER-MILLER, INC was chosen as the vendor to purchase a second robot (the first robot was obtained with FY2005 State Homeland Security Grant Funds utilizing a board letter which authorized a waiver of the County's competitive bidding process) as training in this type of robotic platform has already been completed.

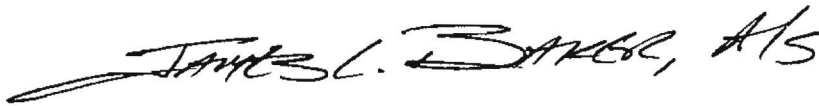
**SELECTION CRITERIA/PROCESS:**

*The Alameda County Sheriff's Office is recommending your Board approve a waiver of the County competitive bidding process to allow for the purchase of a Talon CBRNE rated response robot from FOSTER-MILLER, INC. There are other vendors that manufacture CBRNE rated response robots however their technical specifications as well as its operational functionality does not meet or conform with the current robotic platform being utilized by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad. To purchase another brand from another vendor would entail additional costs to train the squad on a new training platform. GSA Purchasing evaluated the Sheriff's Office original request for a Sole Source and through further discussion and consultation regarding the Sheriff's Office immediate timelines, service needs, and the lengthy time period to complete a formal procurement process, GSA has recommended the Sheriff's Office seek Board approval to waive the competitive bidding process. The Sheriff's Office has already obtained a Sole Source approval from the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) which approved the Alameda County Sheriff's Office to purchase the Talon CBRNE rated response robot from FOSTER-MILLER, INC.*

**FINANCING:**

This request does not increase the Net County Cost in FY2009-2010 or in future years

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory J. Ahern  
Sheriff-Coroner

GJA:BCV:bcv

cc: Susan Muranishi, County Administrator  
Patrick O'Connell, Auditor-Controller