

# MUSCATINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator

**FROM:** Brett Talkington, Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** City Council Agenda Item

**DATE:** January 10, 2019

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Police Department would like to replace our current MSORT (Muscatine Special Operations Response Team) vehicle with a more current, usable vehicle. We would like to purchase a Ballistic Armored Tactical Transport (BATT) APX vehicle for MSORT.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Muscatine Police Department and the Muscatine Sheriff's Department merged into one Special Response Team January 2018. The team trains together every month preparing for any type of high-risk tactical operations. There is equipment needed for this training. We currently have a Military vehicle called a MRAP (Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected). The Police Department has had this vehicle for several years. It is on loan from the government. We would like to replace it with a vehicle that is more user friendly and practical for our needs.

### **RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE:**

The Police Department has secured outside funding sources amounting to \$150,000 for the purchase of the BATT for MSORT. The cost of the BATT is \$200,000. We currently would be able to absorb some of the cost due to a variety of line items being under budget and personnel costs being less due to vacancies not currently filled. The remaining funding will come from the Police forfeiture account to complete the purchase. The Police Department is requesting city council to approve spending a total of \$50,000 out of the Police Department budget and forfeiture account.

## **Ballistic Armored Tactical Transport (BATT) APX**

### **HISTORY OF THE MRAP (MILITARY MINE-RESISTANT AMBUSH) CURRENTLY IN USE**

Several years ago, the Muscatine Police Department acquired a U.S. Military Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected, (MRAP), armor vehicle for use in high-risk tactical operations under the government 1033 program. Although this vehicle has been very useful in several past situations, it comes with considerable drawbacks that limit its effectiveness.

The weight of the MRAP is the most notable drawback. Our MRAP weighs 55,000 lbs., which limits areas to drive. In past operations, we have had to concern ourselves with weight embargos on some of the outlying county bridges to ensure we had a clear path to target.

Our current MRAP has had several mechanical issues and has been down for several months due to problems trying to service it.

The absence of shooting ports is another considerable drawback of the MRAP.

### **Ballistic Armored Tactical Transport (BATT) APX**

This vehicle is much more applicable to our operations than the current MRAP. The MRAP is a very large Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP). The MRAP creates a ballistic barrier if needed for several operations however due to the size and weight of the vehicle the maneuverability of the vehicle is much different from the Ballistic Armored Tactical Transport (BATT) APX.

The BATT is a tactically designed armored vehicle. The BATT may be utilized for armed subjects, who would otherwise be too dangerous to approach, and allow officers to deploy less lethal options from a position of safety. The BATT is utilized across the country to effect officer down rescues. The vehicle may help to drive up to the fallen officer and allows the team to provide lethal cover from the safety of the shooting ports rescuing the downed officer.

Such was the case in Pittsburgh in 2009 when a barricaded suspect armed with an AK-47 shot three officers. Tactical officers engaged the suspect in a 4-hour gun battle, as the downed officers were rescued. All of this took place from the safety of their armored vehicle as they returned fire from gun ports. Even though the vehicle took multiple hits from the suspect's AK-47, not a single tactical officer injured during the standoff.

As you may know, we had a similar incident in 2015 when an individual shot his father in their driveway. Heavily armed, the suspect barricaded himself in his residence and a standoff ensued.

The only difference between this incident and the one in Pittsburgh was our suspect chose not to fire upon officers.

BATT comes with multi angle ram (see video). This will enable us to breach doors and windows without having to use a person when deadly situations arise.

BATT will allow us to utilize this vehicle in smaller spaces, between houses while conducting an operation due to being able to manipulate in smaller areas and 14,000 pounds lighter.

BATT will be equipped with rail system to easily access the rear of the vehicle and transport injured people when the scene is not safe or secure and remove people while providing cover to law enforcement.

Even though the BATT is smaller, it will provide more area for an extra 2-3 operators to be able to in-fill and ex-fill from vehicle quickly

This MSORT Rescue vehicle and will not look like the MRAP, which will look a bit less militaristic. The goal of this vehicle is to be able to use this and it not be an eye sore to the community. We are not trying to be a military operation. We provide the protection and equipment needed to keep our community safe.

### **Financial**

We have been able to secure \$150,000 of the funding for this vehicle. The cost of the vehicle is \$200,000. The Police Department is requesting the city council to approve \$50,000 to purchase the vehicle with funding from our current budget and funds from our forfeiture account.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t5hcg2yv0bc8fr7/AADZUkHJKQKw0HuLaptUXVGHa?dl=0>