



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST

BOARD SUMMARY REPORT

Date: June 20, 2020

To: Board of County Commissioners

Through: Tyler S. Brown, Sheriff

From: Nathan Fogg, Emergency Manager

Subject: Request for approval to expend CARES Act funds for respiratory protection for responders working in COVID-19 environments

Direction/Information

Providing additional information to the Commission around the need for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and Air Purifying Respirators (APR) for Sheriff's Office personnel.

Request and Recommendation

The Sheriff's Office and the Office of Emergency Management request the approval for purchase and issuance of fixed asset numbers for 60 SCBA and 250 APRs.

Background

The Sheriff's Office identified an operational deficiency in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, in that not all staff have the required APRs and select staff have been sharing SCBA respirators that become contaminated with saliva, respiratory droplets, and sputum. It is a public health recommendation that these devices not be shared to reduce the transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the highly contagious virus responsible for the current COVID-19 pandemic. In a demonstration on June 22, 2020, the OEM showed how the SCBA and APR offer the highest levels of protection to responders working in a COVID-19 positive environment and can also spread the virus to members required to share devices.

Links to Align Arapahoe

Safe Communities

Discussion

The Sheriff's Office is seeking to purchase 60 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) respirators at approximately \$1,000,000. These kits allow deputy sheriffs to respond, along with the fire department to scenes where the SARS-COV-2 is present and maintain a 100% fully protected, positive pressure air system. The SCBAs allow the deputies to spend up to one hour working in an infectious environment alongside, or independently of, our fire department and paramedics. This is the highest level of respiratory protection available to our responders and is

interoperable with our response partners. The Sheriff's Office proposes using CARES Act funding to purchase these SCBAs.

The Sheriff's Office is also seeking to purchase (non-consumable) PPE for all responders in the Office in form of air purifying respirators (APR), commonly known as gas masks. The required APRs total approximately \$77,000. There are currently 250 staff members without access to this second best level of protection from SARS-COV-2. These APRs allow the user to change filtration cartridges (CDC recommended P-100) as required and offers eye protection. The APR does not provide a positive pressure environment, which accounts for the second best level of protection. The Sheriff's Office intends to use CARES Act funding for this purchase.

The Sheriff's Office believes both of these respiratory protection purchases are reasonably necessary to offer the highest levels of protection from COVID-19 and its associated virus. Additionally, these pieces of equipment are operable and offer protection to our responders in a variety of other hazardous environments related to chemical, biological, radioactive, and nuclear environments.

Alternatives

There are not viable alternatives to these levels of protection. The Sheriff's Office already supplies its members, and others, with lesser grades of protection in the form of non-medical masks, KN-95 respirators, and N-95 respirators.

The no action leaves 310 members of the Sheriff's Office without the highest levels of respiratory protection recommended by public health officials.

Fiscal Impact

The impact to the county, based on upon a BOCC finding of reasonable necessity, is the expenditure of CARES Act funds totaling \$1,077,000 for 250 APR and 60 SCBAs. The Sheriff's Office has the ability to maintain and replace the consumable components for each piece of protective equipment.

Concurrence

The Sheriff's Office has reviewed this document and concurs.

Reviewed By

Tyler S. Brown, Sheriff
Glenn Thompson, Public Safety Chief
Kenneth McKlem, Special Operations Captain
Olga Fajaros, Sheriff's Finance Manager