



Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Fahey and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Ernest Klevesahl Jr, Chief of Police
Robert Cochran, Police Sergeant

DATE: April 19, 2005

SUBJECT: Authorize the expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$13,125.00 to outfit Police Motorcycles with AR-15 Patrol Rifles and appropriate \$13,125.00 from Asset Forfeiture Funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$13,125.00 to outfit Police Motorcycles with AR-15 Patrol Rifles and appropriate \$13,125.00 from Asset Forfeiture Funds.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

The approximate total cost of outfitting the motorcycles with the AR-15 Patrol Rifles is \$13,125.00. This is not a budgeted item; however, funds are available in the asset forfeiture account

210-15-203-5217. The City receives Asset Forfeiture Funds after law enforcement has seized monies/assets from suspects involved in the sale, purchase, or manufacture of illicit drugs. Asset Forfeiture funds received by the Manhattan Beach Police Department are the result of police department investigations, joint investigations with other agencies, and our participation in L.A. IMPACT. A permissible use of these funds is the purchase of law enforcement equipment including firearms. The funds have already been received by the City.

7- AR15 weapons (Colt M4 Carbine 14 ½ "barrel) at \$1232.00 each =	\$8624.00
7- Weapon racks at (\$500.00) each	= <u>\$3500.00</u>
Sub Total	\$12124.00
8.25% Tax	<u>\$1000.23</u>
TOTAL COST	Approx. = \$13125.00

BACKGROUND:

Historically, law enforcement has been involved in incidents that created the need to re-evaluate their weapon systems. Years ago revolvers were replaced with semi-automatic handguns as the officers' primary weapons due to the increased firepower used by criminals. After the North Hollywood bank shootout and several other incidents where police officers were out-gunned

combined with incidents of criminals wearing ballistic shielding, the secondary weapon systems were re-evaluated. Secondary Weapons (Patrol Rifles) have been determined to be necessary equipment to prepare field officers to respond to threats of violence.

The motorcycle officer is recognized as often being the first responder on calls for service where a secondary weapon is needed.

In 2001, the Manhattan Beach Police Department began a project to deploy the AR-15 Semi-Automatic Rifle in all black and white police units. The AR-15 was issued in addition to the shotgun for officers in the field, providing officers a weapon with superior stand off capabilities to protect themselves and citizens when coming into contact with heavily armed criminals.

DISCUSSION:

Manhattan Beach Police Officers assigned to motorcycle duty are “first responders,” and have the same need for a patrol rifle as officers assigned to black and white police cars. They are often dispatched and respond to the same high priority calls as patrol officers, often being the first on scene due to their high mobility. Unfortunately, when the motor officer arrives they are only armed with a handgun. This puts these officers at a disadvantage.

All Manhattan Beach patrol vehicles are already equipped with the AR-15 rifles and all Officers have received training in the use of the AR-15 and continue to receive regular in-service training updates.

The purpose of a Patrol Rifle is to extend range, accuracy, stopping power, and penetration of the duty handgun. The patrol rifle can handle scenarios never considered for the shotgun or handgun. They include counter-sniping, long range defense, improved penetration against cover and against criminals wearing soft body armor.

The cities of Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Hawthorne, Torrance, and Inglewood, as well as the Los County Sheriff’s Department (City of Lawndale) all equip their Police Motorcycles with secondary weapons.

Securely mounting an AR-15 Rifle on Manhattan Beach Police Department motorcycles will complete the Patrol Rifle Program that was started in 2001 and will provide our Motorcycle Officers with the same capabilities as officers assigned to patrol cars.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize the expenditure of \$13,125.00 and appropriation of asset forfeiture monies for the acquisition of AR-15 Rifles for Police Motorcycles.
2. Return to staff with Council input relating to appropriate expenditures.











