



Department: Police
Cost Center: 8001
For Agenda of: 7/2/2024
Placement: Consent
Estimated Time: N/A

FROM: Rick Scott, Police Chief
Prepared By: Brian Amoroso, Deputy Chief

SUBJECT: APPROVE AN UPDATED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY REGIONAL SWAT TEAM

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Draft Resolution entitled, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of San Luis Obispo, California, authorizing the Chief of Police to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to participate in the San Luis Obispo Regional Special Weapons and Tactics Team (Regional Swat Team)

POLICY CONTEXT

The Regional SWAT Team Board of Governance (BOG) determined that an updated MOU needed to be authored and approved, as the existing agreement has been in place since the inception of the team in 2008, significantly predating the current Chiefs of Police for the region.

DISCUSSION

Background

Since 2008, the Cities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, and San Luis Obispo along with California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo and California State Parks have operated a Regional SWAT Team under a previously signed agreement. The SWAT Team utilizes special tactics and equipment to manage and resolve critical incidents involving armed or barricaded suspects, hostages, and high-risk warrant services or incidents that are high risk and so hazardous, complex, or unusual they may exceed the capabilities of first responders or investigative units in their respective jurisdictions.

In January 2024, the Regional SWAT Team Board of Governance, which is made up of the head law enforcement officer of the respective participating agencies, reviewed the previous agreement and prepared a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with updated information (Attachment B). The MOU updates included additional language in the categories under Purpose, Term, Agency Responsibilities, Agency Budgeting, and Indemnification. The Board of Governance members will select an agency to act as the fiduciary for the Regional SWAT Team. At this time, the fiduciary agency has not been selected, and may change in future years.

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The MOU has been reviewed by each agency’s legal counsel and approved as to form. The term of the MOU will be until June 30, 2029; however, the MOU allows the participating agencies to automatically renew the MOU for three successive five-year increments as long as there are no substantive changes needed. Each agency is responsible for contributing \$5,000 per year to offset training and equipment costs, as equipment used by the SWAT Team are high-cost items and shared amongst all agencies on the team. Each agency is already expending like funds, but the updated agreement standardizes this obligation and creates equity for team members and the participating agencies. The MOU will become effective when the last agency signs the agreement.

Previous Council or Advisory Body Action

None

Public Engagement

This item is on the agenda for the July 2, 2024 City Council meeting and will follow all required postings and notifications. The community has an opportunity to comment on this item at or before the meeting.

CONCURRENCE

All represented agencies are seeking authorization for this same agreement through each of their respective advisory bodies.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to the recommended action in this report because the action does not constitute a “Project” under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.

FISCAL IMPACT

Budgeted: Yes

Budget Year: 2024-25

Funding Identified: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Total Budget Available	Current Funding Request	Remaining Balance	Annual Ongoing Cost
General Fund	\$5,000	\$	\$	\$5,000
State				
Federal				
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$5,000	\$	\$	\$5,000

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For the current fiscal year, the department will use existing budget to cover this expenditure. Staff will request additional funding in the amount of \$5000/year through the budget planning process for the next Financial Plan FY 2025-27.

ALTERNATIVES

1. ***Adopt the Resolution as presented***, thus authorizing the Chief of Police to sign the updated MOU for the city's participation in the San Luis Obispo County Regional Special Weapons and Tactics Team (Regional SWAT Team).
2. ***Provide direction to staff regarding additional terms or modifications desired to the MOU.*** If the MOU is changed from its current version, each member agency will be required to agree to the modifications and return to their respective governing bodies for approval and adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

- A - Draft Resolution approving an updated MOU with SLO County Regional SWAT Team
- B - San Luis Obispo County Regional SWAT MOU