

Report to / Rapport au:

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

29 May 2023 / 29 mai 2023

Submitted by / Soumis par:

Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service / Chef de police, Service de police d'Ottawa

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SUBJECT: CERAMIC ARMoured PLATE – LIFECYCLE REPLACEMENT

**OBJET: PLAQUES DE CÉRAMIQUE BLINDÉES – REMPLACEMENT AU
TERME DU CYCLE DE VIE**

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Police Services Board approve the procurement of 784 Ceramic Armoured Plates from Pacific Safety Products Inc. in the amount of \$327,947.20 (exclusive of HST), to support the replacement and life cycling of existing plates set to expire in the fall and into Q1 2024.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa approuve l'acquisition de 784 plaques blindées en céramique auprès de Pacific Safety Products Inc. pour un montant de 327 947,20\$ (TVH en sus), afin d'appuyer le remplacement et le retrait des plaques actuelles, dont le cycle de vie doit prendre fin cet automne et lors du premier trimestre de 2024.

BACKGROUND

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) provides all sworn and civilian uniformed members with suitable attire and equipment to perform their daily responsibilities when responding to calls for service from the community.

The Quartermaster Unit (QMU) works together with the Ceremonial Sergeant Major, members from the Professional Development Centre, and other internal stakeholders to develop uniform standards and keep abreast of evolving equipment needs that keep our members safe.

There are varying degrees of uniform dress, such as ceremonial, mess kit, and working dress, as well as specialized uniforms for select units or operations. The most frequently used uniform is the working dress and would be most recognizable and familiar to the public. In all cases, when a uniformed sworn officer is performing their duties in public, Soft Body Armour (SBA) forms part of their working dress.

The SBA provides the minimum level of protection to the officer and is appropriate for nearly all working conditions; however, to ensure there is enhanced protection to the officer when an event occurs where there is known or the potential of heightened munitions, the officer adds a Ceramic Armoured Plate (CAP) to their uniform before responding to the event. The CAP is mounted in a fabric carrier that attaches to and works in concert with the SBA. This is known as the CAP System. The OPS first began using the CAP System in 2004.

As the CAP system is required on a sporadic basis only, and as the system adds an additional 10-12 lbs to the uniform, it is impractical for officers to wear the CAP system at all times. Given this, CAP System is most often stored within close proximity of a deployed officer for use as required.

Similar to other pieces of critical uniform gear, the CAP requires life cycling when it has reached the manufacturer-recommended expiration date. It should be noted that the CAP requires more frequent replacement than the carrier as the fabric carrier does not have an expiration date; they are replaced as required due to regular wear and tear.

This report is seeking approval from the Ottawa Police Services Board (the Board) for OPS approval to purchase Ceramic Armoured Plates only.

DISCUSSION

Varying quantities of CAPs will be reaching their expiration date as early as August 2023 and continuing into January 2024. Due to the lengthy lead time to manufacture and deliver, which can vary from 12 – 16 weeks, the OPS is seeking to purchase and order these plates immediately. This will ensure that the Service has access to sufficient replacement plates so that life cycling can be executed efficiently. This advance order and purchase also takes into consideration level of effort for disposal of expired plates.

Currently Pacific Safety Products (PSP) is the vendor of record for the SBA. As the CAP System works jointly with the SBA, ensuring proper fit, the OPS is seeking to purchase the CAP replacements from PSP.

Earlier in April, the OPS immediately proceeded with the purchase of a small quantity of CAP system's (54 units; \$22,588.20) to replace plates that were identified to expire in June 2023. This small volume is possible for PSP to provide in timely manner and is above and beyond the order of CAP systems being requested in this report.

CONSULTATION

Consultations with the public were not required to determine the specifications and quantity of CAP's required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The OPS pursued quotes from two other reputable and known vendors. One vendor advised that they could not match PSP's pricing and the other vendor noted they could not meet the specifications.

The purchase of 784 plates will cost \$327,947.20 (exclusive of HST) and will be funded through the "Asset Evergreening 2023" Capital Program, project number 910997.

Below is a breakdown of order quantities by expiration date and dollar value of associated purchase.

Expiry Timeline	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
August 2023	250	418.30	\$ 104,575.00
September 2023	250	418.30	\$ 104,575.00
October 2023	98	418.30	\$ 40,993.40
January 2024	186	418.30	\$ 77,803.80
Total Cost (exclusive of HST)			\$ 327,947.20

CONCLUSION

Every day, uniformed officers respond to critical and unpredictable events. In order to do so, they require the appropriate protective equipment. While officers wear an SBA as part of their standard working kit uniform, there are instances where enhanced

protection is required. The CAP System is one of the elements that provides this enhanced protection for the officer. As the current stock of the Ceramic Armoured Plate is soon expiring, the Quartermaster Unit needs to procure over 700 CAP's at this time to ensure sufficient manufacture lead and inventory management time to address the upcoming expiration and life cycling of current inventory.