

 <p><b>OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE</b>  <b>SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA</b></p> <p><i>The Trusted Leader in Policing</i>  <i>Le chef de file de confiance dans la police</i></p>	<p><b>REPORT</b>  <b>RAPPORT</b></p>
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DATE: 23 March 2015

TO/DEST: Executive Director, Ottawa Police Services Board

FROM/EXP: Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service

SUBJECT/OBJECT: **PURCHASE OF CONDUCTED ENERGY WEAPONS**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board approve:**

1. **The sole source purchase of 100 Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW) X2 model from M. D. Charlton Co. Ltd at a cost of \$195,938.**
2. **M. D. Charlton Co. Ltd as the supplier for future purchases, as it is the sole authorized distributor of the provincially approved Taser Brand CEW products.**

## BACKGROUND

The Ottawa Police Services Board (Board) approved the deployment of Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs) to first class constables as described in the [report](#) presented on April 28, 2014.

The Board approved an amendment to its Use of Force Policy to add a new section (c) (iii) as follows:

- c) The Chief of Police will:
  - iii) be authorized to issue a conducted energy weapon to police officers who are:
    - Front line supervisors
    - Members of tactical/hostage rescue teams
    - Members of preliminary perimeter control and containment teams
    - First class constables who are coach officers or who meet all of the following criteria:
      1. are recommended by their Platoon NCO
      2. have good overall work performance
      3. are assigned to areas or functions where front line ready access can be improved.
    - An experienced officer on patrol with previous experience carrying a CEW and who meets criteria 1 through 3 above.

To support the approved deployment, and in keeping with the plan outlined in the 2014 report, the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) is seeking to purchase 100 additional CEWs to gradually improve ready access to the device and ultimately, increase public and officer safety.

## DISCUSSION

In April 2014, the Board considered and approved policy changes outlining which trained officers could carry CEWs, a plan to redeploy some existing devices and purchase CEWs, as well as a detailed, phased deployment approach for CEWs.

In the first phase of that deployment about 60 CEWs that had been in inventory were re-assigned to patrol in 2014.

In keeping with the April 2014 report approved by the Board, staff is now seeking the purchase of 100 devices in 2015. These devices will be deployed to trained officers before the end of 2015 and will improve access and availability of CEWs on the road.

As well, in accordance with the 2014 report, after the deployment plan is complete the OPS will assess how ready access has improved and evaluate the effectiveness of this plan.

The deployment plan was informed through a variety of inputs including research of best practices, a needs assessment, and the results of the external and internal consultation. In addition, the plan met the following criteria:

- Respected current budgets and was fiscally prudent;
- Considered expanded use of CEWs within the Patrol Directorate first;
- Ensured that front-line members had access to CEWs when appropriate and required;
- Considered the need for strong accountability and governance; and
- Provided for the best maintenance of the weapons to minimize costs.

The budget provision to enable purchasing the devices has already been approved in the 2015 Budget.

Police services in Ontario employing CEWs are required to purchase models sanctioned by the Ontario Ministry of Public Safety and Correctional Services. Currently, only models manufactured by TASER International are approved. The X2 and X26P models were authorized for use by the Ontario Ministry of Public Safety and Correctional Services in late 2014.

The OPS is seeking the authority to purchase 100 of the X2 model as it more technologically advanced and consequently, improves public and officer safety. It is equipped with a dual laser sighting system to indicate where each probe will make contact on the body. As well, an officer will immediately know if the subject is within range based on the laser positioning indicators. The X2 also holds two cartridges, thereby allowing for quick secondary full probe deployments by simply depressing a switch (button). The X2 is recommended by the Ontario Police College as well as the Ministry of Corrections CEW Working Committee.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The purchase is a sole source one, given that there is only one authorized supplier of TASER products. In accordance with the Board's Financial Accountability Procedures (FAP) Manual a sole source purchase which exceeds \$100,000 requires the approval of the Board.

Funding is available for this request in the Corporate Accounts operating budget, specifically the equipment account. This account includes several envelopes of funds to support specialized equipment, Business Continuity and Building Security and Access Control needs.

Total Approved Budget	\$769,800
Expenditures to Date	0
Balance Available	769,800
This Request	195,938
Remaining Balance	\$573,862

## CONCLUSION

CEWs are an approved and effective use of force option for police officers in Ontario.

A practical deployment plan was previously developed and approved by the Board in April of 2014, to improve ready access to the devices.

The OPS is in the process of carrying out that plan with the ultimate goal of enhancing public and officer safety.

*(Original signed by)*

Charles Bordeleau  
Chief of Police

Responsible for report: Director General Debra Frazer