



**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE
SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA**

*The Trusted Leader in Policing
Le chef de file de confiance dans la police*

**REPORT
RAPPORT**

DATE: 28 September 2015

TO/DEST: Executive Director, Ottawa Police Services Board

FROM/EXP: Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service

SUBJECT/OBJET: **PURCHASE OF NIGHT VISION DEVICES AND GOGGLES**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Ottawa Police Services Board approve the purchase of 29 units of “NVD-BNVD P+” Night Vision Goggles from Millbrook Tactical of Stittsville, Ontario at a cost of \$407,045.00 (excluding taxes).

BACKGROUND

In 2014, the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) Tactical Unit identified enhanced night vision capabilities as a requirement that needed to be addressed to ensure its operational capacity reflects best practices and interoperability.

This technology and training is an important capability for the Tactical Unit. It is beneficial for use during low light or no light tactical operations where public and officer safety is at risk. Several reviews, including that of the shooting on Parliament Hill on October 22, have identified this requirement.

The ability to use night vision is a proven technology that would benefit the unit's capabilities, enhance operational effectiveness, increase public and officer safety and allow the unit to be more interoperable with our federal and provincial partners.

Millbrook has been identified as the supplier for the required products and will also conduct the required training. The 2 day training course is slated to be completed by October 17th.

DISCUSSION

Requirement

In 2014, a plan was put in place to purchase the required number of NVG-BNVD P+ Night Vision Goggles for the entire Tactical Unit. The first phase of this plan included the approval of the Board for 15 units that were delivered earlier this year. The purchases were phased in to ensure budgets were in place.

The process – from order to manufacturing to delivery – is extensive and can take at least six months for delivery. It requires end user certificates to ensure only approved purchasers have access to the equipment.

This second purchase will ensure the unit has its required night vision equipment.

The design of the proposed NVD-BNVD P+ Night Vision goggles equips Incident Commanders with the capabilities of continuing operations in low or no light conditions which expedites facilitating the safe recovery of hostages, apprehension and control of a subject and increasing public safety.

Being that the goggles are securely mounted to a wearer's helmet, officer safety is enhanced as it would allow for the officers hands to be free and use of force options more readily accessible.

The NVD-BNVD P+ Night Vision Goggles better align to meet current best practices and the standards being used by other law enforcement agencies and partners like the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

To be fully operational in night /low light operations a Tactical Unit member requires a 5 stage approach which consists of technology and training:

- 1) Durable Binocular night vision goggles with clear imaging optics
- 2) An infrared spectrum aiming laser (the goggles prevent rifle sight acquisition)
- 3) An infrared spectrum light source
- 4) A quality mount to secure the binocular to the tactical member's helmet, and
- 5) Caliber training to maximize equipment capacity.

Research

The unit has conducted research with the goal of identifying a suitable technology that addresses this five stage approach. The unit researched several different technologies and solutions from a variety of manufacturers and suppliers.

Further discussion was held with training staff at the federal level, equipment subject matter experts and tactical partners at the federal and provincial level. The intent of these discussions was to ensure the solution meets the needs of a municipal police service while also ensuring OPS could operate with the same technology and in the same fashion to ensure interoperability with its partner tactical units in the RCMP and OPP.

The result of this research and discussion identified the NVD-BNVD P+ Night Vision Goggles, Wilcox L4 g24 helmet mount, and training as the most suitable and cost effective option. The package will be purchased from Millbrook Tactical of Stittsville.

The NVD-BNVD P+ Night Vision Goggles would allow the Tactical Unit capacity to operate in low or no light conditions.

Sole Source Rationale

Millbrook Tactical is the distributor of Night Vision Depot products in Canada. Night Vision Depot uses North American made technology that guarantees a better, more reliable and predictable response. In particular, NVD used Exelis light gathering tubes that are highly recommended. The NVD-BNVD P+ goggle has a photocathode response of 1750 which is ideal for the OPS Tactical Unit's needs. This goggle is auto-gated, turns off when carried in the stowed position and is waterproof.

Millbrook Tactical is the sole distributor of Wilcox products in Canada. The Wilcox L4 G24 helmet mount is highly recommended by those with experience in the field. This mount ensures a firm, secure interface between the optic and helmet.

Millbrook Tactical, an Ottawa based company, will be a repair center for night vision products. As such, non-warranty repairs can be made locally.

Consistency in training and technology increases inter-operability, ensures operational effectiveness and enhances the safety of members and the community when co-deploying with other police tactical units.

Research into this proposed acquisition involved representatives from Canadian Special Forces Command, RCMP Emergency Response Team (ERT) and OPP Tactics and Rescue Unit (TRU). The choice of this technology and training was recommended by all three organizations and is considered a best practice.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Funding is available for this request and is coming from the following accounts:

Accounts:

124153:	\$243,980.00
124154:	\$129,180.00
124155:	\$148,900.00
Balance Available:	\$522,060.00
This Request:	\$407,045.00
Remaining Balance:	\$115,015.00

CONCLUSION

Enhanced night vision technology and training has been identified as an important capability for the OPS Tactical Unit and beneficial for officers to use during near-dark tactical operations where public and officer safety is at risk.

The acquisition of the Night Vision Depot goggles and Wilcox mounts meet the requirements of the unit and ensures interoperability with other police partners.

(Original signed by)

Charles Bordeleau
Chief of Police

Responsible for report: Deputy Chief Jill Skinner