



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Chief of Police

DATE: April 9, 2015

RE: Consideration - Recommendation for Trading of MP5 Weapons

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City Police Department currently owns five (5) 9MM submachine gun pistols (MP5) that were being utilized by the SWAT Division. The MP5's were initially purchased by the City in the early 1990's. The MP5 weapons are no longer functional. All have missing parts, with the exception of one that is still fully operational. At the present time, the MP5's are not being utilized and are stored in the Police Department's vault. The majority of parts needed to repair the weapons are no longer being made. Further, it would cost on average, \$500.00 to replace the suppressor on each weapon. Therefore, the best option would be to trade the weapons in for a store credit, which will be a cost effective way to obtain more needed law enforcement equipment.

ANALYSIS:

The Elizabeth City Police Department currently uses a North Carolina based vendor, Lawmen's Safety Supply, to purchase the majority of our police supplies and equipment. Lawmen's has expressed interest in purchasing all five of the MP5's in their current condition. Under the National Firearm Act, MP5's are Class III weapons that are required to be registered with the National Firearm Registry. Due to this law, Lawmen's is only allowed to purchase certain components of the weapon. The Elizabeth City Police Department will continue to possess the receiver and suppressor for each weapon since these components have serial numbers that are registered with the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Commission.

In March 2015, Lawmen's conducted an on-site inspection of the MP5's and appraised, in their condition, four of the weapons at \$500.00 per weapon and one weapon at \$250.00. If

all five MP5's are traded, the Elizabeth City Police Department will have \$2,250.00 in funding to purchase replacement weapons.

The Police Department would like to purchase three Del-Ton Echo Short Barreled Rifles as replacement weapons to the MP5. The Del-Ton Short Barreled Rifle uses the same 5.56 caliber ammunition as the AR-15 we currently use. The Del-Ton Echo rifle is smaller and lighter than an average size rifle, which allows for better mobility and storage. The cost of one Del-Ton Echo rifle is \$609.00, which would allow the department to purchase a minimum of three rifles for \$1,827.00. The \$423 credit remaining after the purchase will be used to purchase additional police supplies, such as ammunition.

The purchase of these replacement weapons will assist the City in achieving a cost effective means of acquiring additional needed police equipment and will have no budget impact.

FINANCIAL:

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their meeting of April 9, 2015. Upon motion made by Mayor Peel, seconded by Councilman Donnelly, the committee unanimously recommended approval by the full City Council during the meeting of April 13, 2015.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize the Elizabeth City Police Department to surplus and trade five MP5 weapons to Lawmen's Safety Supply in return for the purchase of three Del-Ton Echo Short Barreled Rifles and supplies, as described.

RCO/vdw