



**PURCHASING ITEM  
FOR  
COUNCIL AGENDA**

1. Agenda Item Number:

24

2. Council Meeting Date:

May 12, 2011

**TO: MAYOR & COUNCIL**

3. Date Prepared: April 4, 2011

**THROUGH: CITY MANAGER**

4. Requesting Department: Police

**5. SUBJECT:** Approve the sole source purchase of "Pointman Tactical Robots" from Applied Research Associates Inc., in the amount of \$79,282.00.

**6. RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval for the sole source purchase of "Pointman Tactical Robots" from Applied Research Associates Inc., in the amount of \$79,282.00.

**7. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:** The Police Department received a 2010 Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) award from the State Homeland Security Grant Program. This award provides funding to ensure the Special Assignment Unit (SAU) is prepared and equipped to respond to large-scale emergencies, terrorist events, and natural or man-made disasters as part of the Phoenix area Rapid Response Team. The 2010 grant award authorizes the police department to purchase two Applied Research Associates Inc., Pointman Tactical Robots. This equipment will support SAU's ability to provide tactical response to large scale disasters, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRNE) events and terrorist incidents. SAU will store and maintain the robots within the SAU armory/tactical response vehicles. The robots will be ordered within 30 days of council approval and must be received by the end of the grant performance cycle, September 30, 2011.

**8. EVALUATION PROCESS:** Prior to submitting the 2010 UASI grant application workbook, Chandler SAU sought input from other UASI RRT participants reference the make and model of tactical reconnaissance and explosive detection robots. During the process, an onsite evaluation was performed of Applied Research Associates' Inc., Pointman Robot. The robot has several unique features that distinguish it from other tactical/EOD robots.

The Pointman has a patented polymorphic locomotion (the ability to traverse quickly across relatively flat surfaces) in a wheeled mode and the ability to use its end-over-end clamshell motion to negotiate a host of challenging terrains, such as rocks, curbs, and stairs. The Pointman does not have a top or bottom and therefore cannot get stuck on its back like other robots. The ability to move through a series of flipping motions also ensures the Pointman will not get stuck ascending or descending stairs. The National Institute of Standards and Technology's recently rated the Pointman as best overall in mobility tests. In addition, the Pointman does not have any external antennas or arms that may become damaged from rough terrain or a fall. The Pointman's simplicity of design enables the robot to be deployed in less than a minute. The robot's height is less than seven inches because of the unique camera boom operating system, allowing deployment in confined spaces such as under beds, inside culverts, or through debris and rubble piles.

Since these items are purchased as part of the Phoenix UASI grant, they are considered a regional asset and can be requested and utilized by other Phoenix area Rapid Response Teams (RRT). Having a standardized platform for reconnaissance or EOD applications allows for seamless transition between teams and improves overall interoperability. Both the Phoenix and Tempe Police Department RRTs currently utilize Pointman Robots.

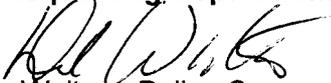
Only equipment listed in the UASI workbook is authorized for purchase through the grant. No substitutions are allowed.

**9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** Funds for this purchase are available through the 2010 UASI RRT/IST grant, account number 217.2210.6419.FA1821.

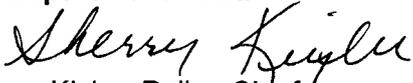
**10. PROPOSED MOTION:** Recommend approval for the sole source purchase of "Pointman Tactical Robots" from Applied Research Associates Inc., in the amount of \$79,282.00.

**APPROVALS**

**11. Requesting Department**

  
Dale Walters, Police Commander

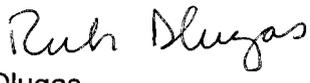
**12. Department Head**

  
Sherry Kiyler, Police Chief

**13. Procurement Officer**

  
Kristy Garcia, CPPB

**14. Acting City Manager**

  
Rich Dlugas