



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 9/12/2017

Agenda Placement: 6X

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Kim Henderson for JOHN ROBERTSON JR. - Sheriff-Coroner  
Sheriff  
**REPORT BY:** Kim Henderson, Sheriff's Administrative Manager - 259-8674  
**SUBJECT:** Sole source award SWAT Robot

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Executive Officer/Purchasing Agent/Sheriff request ratification of a waiver of competitive bidding requirements and sole source award for the purchase of an Avatar III Robot with tilt zoom camera and extended reach manipulator arm from Aardvark, La Verne, California, for a total of \$57,604 pursuant to County Ordinance Code 2.36.090.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As part of the fiscal year 2017/2018 budget approval process, the Board of Supervisors authorized the purchase of a Robotex Robot for SWAT offset by Asset Forfeiture Funds. After extensive research by the SWAT team, the Robotex Avatar III wireless Robot best fit the needs of the SWAT team and the environment for which it would be used. The Robotex robot is light in weight and easy to deploy when compared to other robots that perform similar tasks.

Today's item requests ratification of a waiver of competitive bidding as the Robotex Avatar III wireless Robot is only distributed by Aardvark. Aardvark serves as the primary and sole source distributor to represent all Robotex items and is the only domestic distributor authorized to respond to Requests for Proposal/Requests for Quotes for these products.

Aardvark is not a local vendor.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      Yes

Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Sheriff
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	The Avatar III Robot with zoom camera and extended reach manipulator arm will allow the SWAT team to safely evaluate a critical incident. This item gives the department a better way of resolving critical issues peacefully.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	Maintenance of the robot will be evaluated and budgeted if needed in future fiscal years. The Robotex robot comes with a three year warranty.
Consequences if not approved:	If not approved, the SWAT team would not have a robot that fits the needs of the SWAT team allowing them to quickly and safely inspect dangerous situations without putting anyone in harm's way. Other robots do not meet the needs of the SWAT team as they are bulky, more expensive and not easy to deploy.

Additional Information:

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

The new demand on law enforcement to perfectly end critical incidents without the loss of life has demanded a new level of technology driven alternatives instead of direct human contact with subjects in crisis. The SWAT team researched several robots that would fit the needs of the SWAT team and the environment in which the robot would be deployed. The Robot needed to be light in weight, easy to deploy and reasonable in cost. Many of the robot's researched were larger in scale therefore more expensive, did not fit inside the SWAT truck and would not be reasonable in our community. After extensive research by the SWAT team, the Robotex Avatar III wireless Robot best fit the needs of the SWAT team and the environment for which it would be used. This item, the Avatar III, enhances the capabilities of the SWAT team by allowing them to quickly and safely inspect dangerous situations without putting anyone in harm's way and potentially saves lives by keeping the SWAT team responders at a safer standoff distance.

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**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi