



CITY OF ARANSAS PASS

AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Item for the City Council Meeting of [4/23/2018]
Second Reading Item for the City Council Meeting of [N/A]

Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018
To: Gary Edwards, City Manager
From: Chief Eric Blanchard
eblanchard@aransaspasstx.gov

Agenda Item #:

Title: Rifle transfer from the Southern Methodist University Police Department to the Aransas Pass Police Department.

CAPTION:

Consider and act on approving the Police Chief to receive a transfer of patrol rifles from the Southern Methodist University Police Department.

PURPOSE:

The police department seeks approval for the transfer of 11 short barreled AR-15 rifles and 5 standard length barreled rifles from the Southern Methodist University Police Department to the Aransas Pass Police Department. These rifles would be issued to every sworn officer for deployment instead of the current procedure of having a rifle permanently placed in each patrol vehicle.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Right after Hurricane Harvey, the police department was approached by officers from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex who wanted to help our police department by donating basic items such as boots and flashlights. A few months after the hurricane, an officer with the Southern Methodist University Police Department contacted our department. The Southern Methodist University Police Department was in the process of purchasing new rifles for sworn officers in their department and wanted to donate the current rifles

to the Aransas Pass Police Department (APPD). Their administration wanted to further help our department and felt that donating the rifles would be better served than to sell them.

As we are aware, there have been recent active shooter events throughout the nation. In such an event, it is not uncommon for off duty police officers to respond to the scene from their place of residence to supplement the on-duty officers. Due to the seriousness of the event, there is no time for the responding officers to go to the station, find someone with a key to access the firearms safe and then to load magazines with bullets before responding. With each officer issued a rifle, there would be no need to access the safe and the weapon and accessories would be readily available for rapid deployment.

Another concern with rifles that are permanently mounted in patrol cars is the issue of weapon maintenance. The rifles are routinely exposed to the elements 24 hours a day/7 days a week and vehicles are often assigned to multiple officers. In these situations, equipment becomes neglected. By each officer being issued their own rifle, officers tend to take better care of their equipment including the patrol rifle.

The transfer of these rifles from the Southern Methodist University Police Department to the Aransas Pass Police Department would allow the Aransas Pass Police Department to equip each officer with a rifle at no additional cost to the City. The transfer would consist of 11 Rock River Arms AR-15 short barreled semi-automatic rifles and 5 Rock River Arms AR-15 standard barreled semi-automatic rifles.

ALTERNATIVES:

Continue with current procedure of mounting a patrol rifle in each vehicle.

CONFORMITY TO CITY POLICY:

Requires council approval to accept this donation of equipment from another agency.

EMERGENCY/NON-EMERGENCY:

Not an emergency.

DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCES:

Police Department – department receiving transferred firearms.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approving this item.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

ATF Paperwork.pdf

Closeup Pic.pdf

Rifles.pdf

Standard Rifles Serials.pdf