

Source: Police Department

To: City Council  
From: City Manager and Staff

Council Meeting Date: Apr 1, 2013

Agenda Item No: Supplemental  
Information  
B 66-13 A

Re: Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) Purchase

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$36,505.00 from Asset Forfeiture Funds; the appropriation of \$127,587.00 from Fund Balance; and the transfer of \$63,495.00 from Police Autos to Police Trucks for the purchase of the Armored Personnel Carrier (APC).

### **DISCUSSION:**

Armored Personnel Carriers (APC) in use by civilian law enforcement have proven their value in countless high-risk law enforcement operations. One of the primary benefits of these vehicles is the ballistic protection they offer from gunfire. There are countless examples in American policing where the effective use of an APC has saved the lives of police officers and citizens.

The psychological effect of an APC when introduced to a high risk incident has often resulted in the surrender of the suspect(s). CPD SWAT officers have been told by arrested suspects that one of the reasons they surrendered was they knew "things were getting serious" when they saw the APC arrive on scene.

The CPD has used a military surplus APC since 2001, and as valuable as our vehicle has been to the department and the citizens we serve it has become extremely unreliable. The vehicle is over 30-years old and over the past twelve years there have been 27 documented mechanical or electrical failures resulting in over \$35,000 in repair costs. As recently as September 2012, the APC was needed after the SWAT team was activated to serve an arrest warrant for a murder suspect, but the vehicle could not be utilized at the scene due to mechanical failure.

The use of APC's by SWAT teams has become the norm, not the exception. Of over 500 agencies nationwide, there are nine police agencies in Missouri which currently utilize an APC, including Lee's Summit, Springfield, Kansas City and the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department. The most common APC in use in Missouri is the Lenco Bearcat and the life expectancy of this replacement vehicle is 20-25 years.

Attached is a response to questions / concerns raised at the March 18, 2013 City Council Meeting.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Asset Forfeiture funding will pay for a portion of this purchase, with no fiscal impact. The remaining portion of this purchase will be made with fund balance and existing funding approved in FY14 supplemental for the purchase of three new CSA vehicles which will be put on hold until FY15.

### **VISION IMPACT:**

<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Meetings/visionimpact.php>

None

### **SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

Staff recommends acceptance and passing of this ordinance.

FISCAL and VISION NOTES:					
City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply		Program Impact		Mandates	
City's current net FY cost	\$0.00	New Program/Agency?		Federal or State mandated?	
Amount of funds already appropriated	\$0.00	Duplicates/Epands an existing program?		<b>Vision Implementation impact</b>	
Amount of budget amendment needed	\$0.00	Fiscal Impact on any local political subdivision?		Enter all that apply: Refer to Web site	
Estimated 2 year net costs:		<b>Resources Required</b>		Vision Impact?	
One Time	\$0.00	Requires add'l FTE Personnel?		Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	
Operating/Ongoing	\$0.00	Requires add'l facilities?		Secondary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	
		Requires add'l capital equipment?		Fiscal year implementation Task #	

## Replacing Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) Request

03/22/13

*This report is in response to questions/concerns that council members raised on 03/18/13 regarding the purchase of a replacement armored personnel carrier.*

The Columbia Police Department has had an armored personnel carrier (APC) since 2001. The primary purpose and need for such a vehicle is the ballistic protection it provides. The SWAT Team acquired this government surplus vehicle from the military after it had been in service with the Air Force for 19 years. Several thousand dollars was spent on refurbishing and retrofitting this vehicle for our needs upon its initial purchase.

This vehicle, a 1982 Cadillac-Gage Peace Keeper has simply outlived its usefulness. We have invested over \$35,000 in the past 11 years for maintenance alone simply to keep the vehicle running. In November of 2012, during SWAT training, this 30 year old vehicle suffered catastrophic engine and transmission failure which was the impetus for a new armored rescue vehicle. Prior to this, the primary issues with the vehicle were electrical in nature.

After much research, the Lenco BearCat was decided to be the best replacement fit for our APC. This vehicle, *designed for law enforcement*, does not have any weapon mounting systems and is designed to not only protect its occupants, but also to shield officers and civilians from gunfire.

There are 12 of these BearCats in service in Missouri with the majority being housed in the metro areas of Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield. With Columbia's size and location in Central Missouri, there is certainly a justifiable need for our city to continue to utilize an armored vehicle.

We have deployed our armored vehicle (Peace Keeper) on numerous occasions since it went in service. In the past five years, our SWAT team has been utilized 66 times. The activation of the SWAT Team does not always necessitate the use of our armored vehicle. Of these 66 incidents where the SWAT Team was activated, the vehicle was used 18 times. This armored vehicle was used in the following scenarios;

- Armed Barricaded Subject(s) - 9
- Wanted Subjects – 4
- Hostage Situations – 3
- Search Warrant Service – 2

Prior to our present armored vehicle becoming inoperable, it was last utilized in September of 2012. This incident involved multiple reports of shots being fired in a residential area and the SWAT Team was activated. A possible location for the suspects was determined and the armored vehicle provided ballistic protection for the officers.

In July of 2012, the SWAT Team was activated due to a wanted felony subject, believed to be armed, who had made statements that he would "die before going back to prison." Our armored vehicle was deployed to the suspect's home for ballistic protection for the officers.

In June of 2010, the SWAT Team was activated regarding a wanted felony suspect inside a residence. This was considered a hostage situation as his girlfriend, the assault victim, and her child were inside the residence. The suspect surrendered within minutes of the arrival of our armored vehicle.

In addition, in 2008, a BearCat was deployed by the Missouri State Highway Patrol during the National Socialist Movement march in downtown Columbia. Using an armored vehicle in incidents involving civil unrest would be quite rare. In this particular march, the concern was not only for the 100+ officers providing security for the event but also for the citizens who ringed the parade route and the Neo-Nazi's who were actually marching should they need to be extracted from the angry crowd.

Similar to specialty vehicles our fire department have at their disposal, such as their Bomb or Hazmat trucks, an armored vehicle will only be deployed for specific purposes. Like the fire departments bomb truck, these types of specialty vehicles are rarely needed but when they are, their contribution to a successful resolution is priceless. The mission of an armored vehicle is to protect officers and civilians in high risk situations.

There have been some concerns voiced that this armored vehicle would be used in the service of narcotics related search warrants. It would be an extremely rare situation where this vehicle would be used for the service of a narcotics search warrant. The suspects involved would have to have an extensive violent history before its use would even be considered.

Within twelve hours of our last Council Meeting on 03/18, there were three armed robberies in Columbia at two convenience stores and one Coin and Stamp store. All three of these potentially could have escalated into a hostage situation or a barricaded subject incident.

One question that was brought up at the 03/18/13 council meeting was the number of officers killed nationwide by gunfire in 2012. Of the 119 officers who gave their life in the line of duty in 2012, 46 were by gunfire. So far in 2013, there have been 22 officers nationwide, with one of those from Missouri, who have died in the line of duty. Ten of these were by gunfire. In 2005,

the year CPD Officer Molly Bowden sacrificed her life when she was shot on a vehicle stop; there were 165 officer deaths with 53 of these being gun related.

The ballistic protection this vehicle offers the members of this department and the community we serve cannot be stressed enough. When the situation warrants this specialty vehicle, it is imperative that we have one readily available and one that it is operable. The purchase of a Lenco BearCat will accomplish this for decades. The decision to purchase a replacement armored vehicle should be based on the need, which has been demonstrated over the past 11 years. Similar to a bullet proof vest or bunker gear for a fireman, this vehicle is simply an investment in the safety of our officers. We must continue to be prepared for future incidents. An armored vehicle is a substantial part of this preparation and the protection it offers is paramount to the successful resolution of violent incidents.

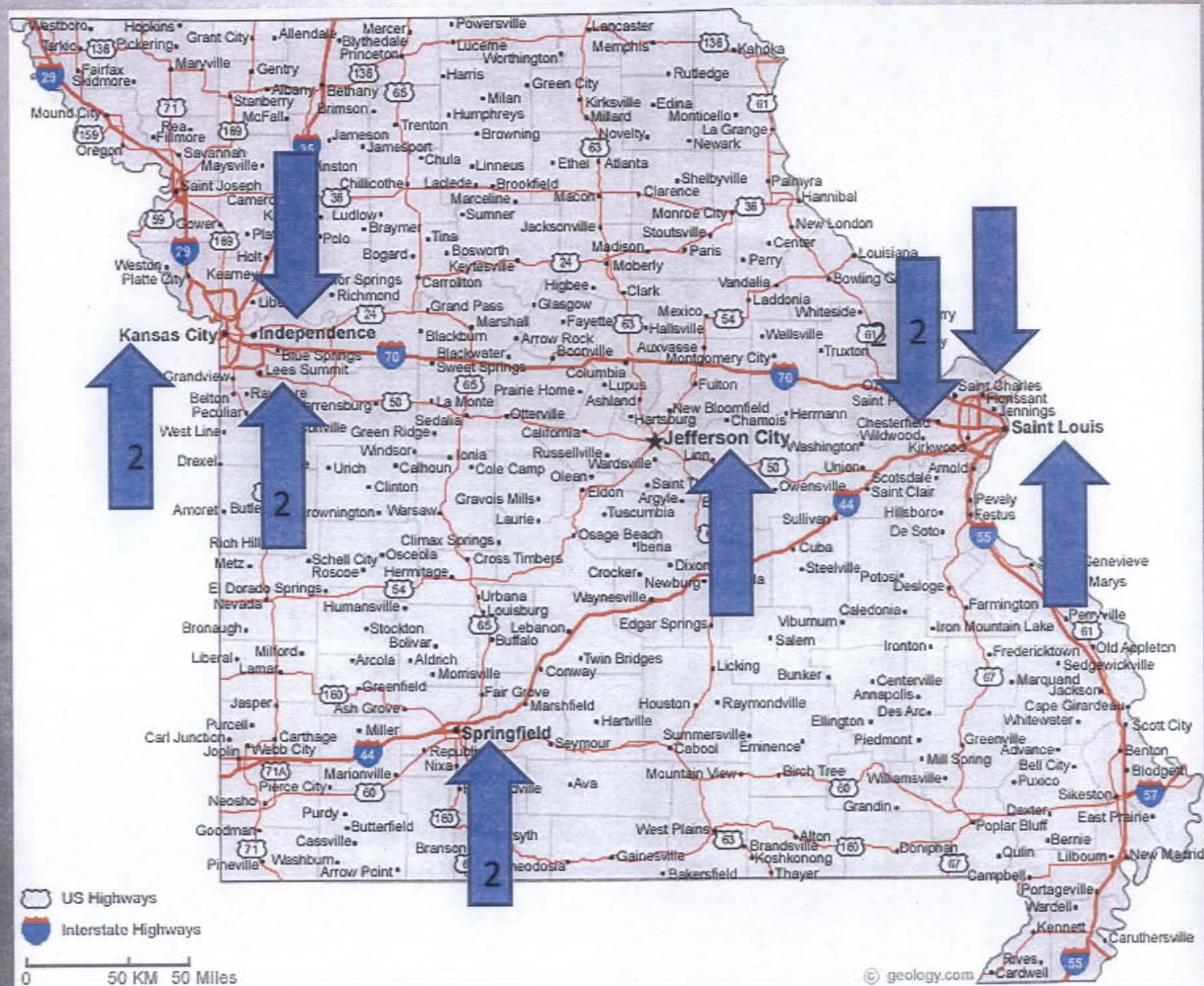
# 1982 Peace Keeper



# Lenco BearCat



# Departments with BearCats



# BearCat Saves Lives

- La Crosse County's BearCat Proves Itself in Standoff – (Wisconsin, April – 2008)
- Texas Man Kills Ex-Governor's Son, Fires AK-47 at Cops. Granger Unloaded 30-plus Rounds Into the Armored Truck. (Tyler, TX. Nov. – 2010)
- Deputies: Armored Vehicle Saves Lives (Farmington, NW. May – 2011)



Washington County,  
MD SWAT, Dec. - 2007



Lecnco BearCat



Armored Truck



M1 Abrams Tank

Introduced by \_\_\_\_\_

First Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_

Council Bill No. B 66-13 A

**AN ORDINANCE**

appropriating federal forfeiture funds and transferring funds for the purchase of an Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) for the Police Department; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The sum of \$36,505.00 is hereby appropriated from the Federal Revenue Account No. 110-2120-461.10-01 GFORFJ to the Police Trucks Account No. 110-2120-511.65.25 GFORFJ.

SECTION 2. The sum of \$127,587.00 is hereby appropriated from the Fund Balance Account No. 110-0000-341.01-00 to the Police Trucks Account No. 110-2120-511.65.25.

SECTION 3. At the request of the City Manager, the City Council hereby transfers \$63,495.00 from the Police Autos Account No. 110-2120-511.65-20 to the Police Trucks Account No. 110-2120-511.65.25.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

PASSED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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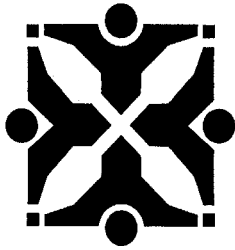
City Counselor

CERTIFICATION: I certify there are sufficient funds available in the following accounts to cover the above appropriation:

Federal Revenue Account No. 110-2120-461.10-01 GFORFJ  
Fund Balance Account No. 110-0000-341.01-00

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Director of Finance



Source: Police Department

To: City Council  
From: City Manager and Staff

Council Meeting Date: Mar 4, 2013

Agenda Item No:

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None

**SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

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Amount of budget amendment needed	\$227,587.00	Fiscal Impact on any local political subdivision?	No	Enter all that apply: Refer to Web site	
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