



PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Division of Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW				
Department Office/Division/Program:		Public Safety		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Fire Marshal Joseph Thomas Assistant Fire Marshal Lt. Troy Gardner		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		Click or tap here to enter text.		
Amount: (RQS - BPO)		\$ 47152.00	Advantage RQS #:	RQS 16A 20211202*621
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:		Proposed End Date:	
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.	Effective Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
	Previous End Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.	New End Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
GRANT	Project Start Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.	Grant Start Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
	Project End Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.	Grant End Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Hunting Evolution – PO BOX 816 Gray, Me 04039		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Tactical Vests (Level III Protection + Rifle Rated Protective Plates		

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Federal Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Willing and Qualified
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. University Cooperative Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	L. Other Authorization

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

The items being purchased are bullet proof vests (protective vests). They are worn for officer safety. The current vests being used by our staff expired years ago which means that our staff are currently using vests that do not provide appropriate protection. Clearly this is a liability for the state as the current equipment is inadequate. We have looked at six vendors and the vests they provide. Only one vendor offered the options that are needed to provide the best possible protection for our employees.

There are different levels of soft body armor material, Level II provides handgun round protection and Level III provides lower caliber rifle round protection. The company we selected was the only company that provided Level IIIA soft body armor protection in the configuration that we need. They are also providing composite protective plates Infinity Plates (10X12) fitted into the front and back of the carriers to increase the package to a Level IV protection which is equivalent to a 30-06 rifle round.

In the past, handgun round safety was the standard for law enforcement officers. All protective vests were designed to provide handgun level (Level II) protection and most incorporate a small protective plate (5X7) that can be inserted into a pocket on the front of the vest to cover the heart and some vital organs. This level of protection is no longer sufficient. Currently, vests do not include rifle round protection for the officers back. Again, this is no longer acceptable.

Our current social climate and conditions have demonstrated that many shootings involved high powered rifles. It is commonplace for shootings/mass shootings to occur involving the use of semi-automatic AR-15 style rifles. These rifles easily penetrate Level II protective soft body armor. They also penetrate some protective plates that are used to protect vital organs. The current state of affairs requires us to purchase vests that provide some form of rifle caliber (Level III) with the goal of obtaining (Level IV) protection if and when possible.

In order to fully protect our employees, we reviewed the available products to determine which company or companies could provide our employees with the necessary level of protection for a competitive price. Hunting Evolution is the company we found that could do that. They were also willing to work with us to design the vest according to our request.

The initial three vendors provided Level II soft body armor safety. Again, not appropriate for today's social and cultural challenges. The fourth vest we tested was made up of steel plates that are very heavy and do not provide side protection. The fifth company couldn't adjust their configuration to meet our safety expectations. Hunting Evolution has the product we need and was willing to work with us on the configuration of the carriers. This includes pockets designed into the front and back of the carriers for the addition of the Infinity plates that are (10 X 12) in size. Again, the Infinity plates bring the protection level to Level IV which is at the top end of the safety spectrum.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.

Hunting Evolution was responsive to our needs, is a local company and was able to provide vests that met the higher (Level IIIA) and (Level IV) standard that is necessary for keeping our employees safe. They were also able to quickly produce the needed vests which is critical as the current vests are expired and we are not currently providing our staff with the necessary level of protection.

3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

We received estimates for the cost of the vests from each of the four carriers. The first three vendors provided estimates for Level II protection (handgun level) and the protective plates were smaller and only in the front of the carrier typically (5X7). We determined this would not thoroughly protect our employees. The

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

additional amount charged elevates us to the Level IIIA and Level IV protection that can stop a Rifle Round with plates in the front and the back of the carrier and could save the life of our employees. The amount involved was very reasonable.

Hunting Evolutions is also providing us with two carriers, one OD green for a woodland environment and one Black for typical urban operations. They are providing an external rifle magazine carrier, handgun magazine carrier, radio carrier and a tourniquet carrier. Most importantly, they are providing us with lightweight composite plates (Infinity Plates) that will be fitted into the front as well as the back of the carriers. This will provide our employees with rifle round protection in the front as well as the back which is needed in today's climate. They were willing to move quickly to get the vests to as soon as possible and protect our employees. The initial soft body armor package was comparable to the other offers, but Hunting Evolution was flexible and willing to work with us regarding the carrier configuration as well as meet our additional safety needs.

List of Carriers contacted about Tactical Vests; Hunting Evolution, Yankee Communications, Admirals Uniforms and Supplies, & Atlantic Tactical.

4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

Going forward, when we are not in an emergency situation that needed to be immediately rectified to protect the lives of our employees, we will go through a competitive process for replacing the vests.

PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

Yes – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).

No – If No, proceed to Part V.

PART V: APPROVALS

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	<i>Michael Sauschuck</i>		
Typed Name:	Commissioner Michael Sauschuck	Date:	Dec 29, 2021
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by: <i>Sue H. Garcia</i> Sue H. Garcia 12/30/2021 <small>E5DB92AC0F8D490...</small>		
Typed Name:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.






PJF HUNTING EVOLUTION - not signed

Final Audit Report

2021-12-29

Created:	2021-12-29
By:	Kendra Coates (kendra.coates@maine.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAAdYDuBPdJUdHaVqUBddbZ6l3_jl98gGa-

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2021-12-29 - 10:44:58 PM GMT- IP address: 24.198.162.201
-  Document emailed to Michael Sauschuck (michael.sauschuck@maine.gov) for signature
2021-12-29 - 10:45:46 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Michael Sauschuck (michael.sauschuck@maine.gov)
2021-12-29 - 11:43:17 PM GMT- IP address: 72.227.103.130
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Signature Date: 2021-12-29 - 11:43:31 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 72.227.103.130
-  Agreement completed.
2021-12-29 - 11:43:31 PM GMT