

Fairfield CRIMEFIGHTER™



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A PARTNERSHIP OF LOCAL BUSINESS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Issue 22

Enter the BearCat

In the wake of the shocking 1997 bank robbery shoot-out in North Hollywood, the Los Angeles Police Department watched helplessly as officers and civilians were pinned down by gunfire. In that incident, two heavily armed men fired more than 1,100 rounds of ammunition, wounding 11 officers, 5 civilians, and destroyed 10 police cars. At that time, the LAPD did not have a readily available rescue vehicle to safely evacuate the officers and civilians.

Enter the BearCat, one of the most secure armored vehicle police departments can possess. This vehicle has high-tech security features to safeguard officers and citizens from bullets, bombs, or almost any lethal environment they might encounter.

Built by Lenco Armored Vehicles, the BearCat is based on Ford's F-550 commercial truck. It includes a 6.0-liter turbo-diesel, five-speed automatic transmission, with an upgraded suspension system specifically designed for this vehicle. It features half-inch steel armor plates, bulletproof windows, blast fragmentation resistant floors, specially designed gun ports, a rotating rescue hatch, and gear storage. The vehicle comes standard with a 4WD system and can carry up to 10 officers

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in full gear through varying terrain. The six Run-Flat tires remain functioning even if they have been punctured. The ballistic capability of the BearCat offers protection from most assault rifles, including armor piercing ammunition.



The BearCat has been used across the nation by many police agencies to protect the community and law-enforcement officers in a multitude of missions. Some of these missions include accompanying the SWAT Team on high-risk operations. However, its primary role in the Fairfield Police Department will be used for citizen/officer rescue from a hostile urban envi-

ronment.

The BearCat provides protection and tactical mobility, enabling the officers of the Fairfield Police Department the confidence and the means to protect and save lives in the face of danger.

