



Redondo Beach News

City Council wrap

By Peter B. Matuszak

(Thursday, January 18, 2007 10:11 AM PST)

Armored vehicle granted

The City Council approved the purchase of a Lenco BearCat armored assault vehicle for the Police Department this week. Funds for the \$240,000 truck were obtained by the Police Department as part of a \$560,000 Governor's Homeland Security Grant last year.

The truck is capable of carrying eight officers into extremely precarious situations. The BearCat can withstand direct fire from up to a 50-caliber gun and is rated to travel through chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents.

The vehicle will be shared with the nine South Bay cities that participate in a mutual aid agreement and will also share maintenance responsibilities.

As another cost saving measure, the vehicle will be driven cross-country by overtime-exempt police staff from the plant in Pittsfield, Mass., to Redondo Beach for delivery. Shipping would cost around \$8,000, whereas picking up the vehicle will only cost a little more than \$3,000. This money will also come from the grant funds.

“We don't want to drive it in the snow, so it might be three or four months before we have it,” said Police Chief Joe Leonardi. “They said it can go any speed, it's stopping it that's the issue.”



The City Council approved the \$240,000 purchase of a Lenco BearCat armored assault vehicle for the Police Department.

The council commended the department for leading the way in securing yet another valuable resource for area law enforcement through Homeland Security grants. Redondo Beach also secured a \$300,000 SWAT vehicle in 2005, and an array of communications upgrades through similar programs in 2006.