

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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DONNY YOUNGBLOOD
Sheriff - Coroner - Public Administrator



September 1, 2026

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

REQUEST FOR SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT OF ONE ROOK ARMORED VEHICLE BY RING POWER CORPORATION (Fiscal Impact: \$621,763; Budgeted; Discretionary)

The Sheriff's Office is requesting Board approval for sole source procurement of an armored critical incident vehicle (Rook) in an amount not to exceed \$621,763.

The Rook has been identified by the Sheriff's Office as an essential piece of specialized SWAT equipment that will significantly enhance operational safety. Its capabilities support safer tactical approaches, the rescue and evacuation of citizens and officers, and improved maneuverability within the inner perimeter of an incident. These technical advantages help command staff assess appropriate use of force, reduce the amount of time spent on scene, and lessen immediate risks to officers, nearby structures, and the public. The full cost of this procurement is already included in the approved budget.

The Rook includes advanced features such as remote operation and wireless connectivity to the command post, making it highly effective during incidents involving terrorism, armed or barricaded subjects, and hostage situations.

The purchase package includes quick-detachable attachments that provide multiple tactical options, such as breaching structures, removing obstacles, and deploying an armored platform capable of elevating operators to second-story positions. The upgraded armored platform further enhances this capability by allowing operators to reach up to a third story, greatly expanding operational flexibility without compromising the safety of officers. A transport trailer is also included as part of the acquisition.

Additionally, we already operate an existing Rook. Procuring the same vehicle ensures operators do not require additional training and allows all current equipment and attachments to remain fully interchangeable. Maintaining consistency across platforms enhances safety, reduces transition time, and preserves the team's ability to respond immediately with familiar, proven tools.

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Adding a second unit also prevents downtime caused by relying on a single vehicle. Ensuring that one Rook is always available increases safety for both deputies and community members, significantly improves operational efficiency, and strengthens the team's overall capabilities.

The County Administrative Office concurs with this request. The Purchasing Division concurs with the sole source justification.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a sole source purchase order with the Ring Power Corporation for procurement of one Rook armored vehicle in an amount not to exceed \$621,763.

Sincerely,

DONNY YOUNGBLOOD, Sheriff-Coroner



By: David Stephens, Chief Deputy
Investigations Bureau

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Attachment

cc: Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
CAO
County Counsel