



## MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

**TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FROM: TOM WICKMAN, CHIEF OF POLICE**  
**RE: REQUEST TO PURCHASE A Lenco BEARCAT**  
**DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2022**

**Summary and Background:** In early August of 2022, Chief Osborne (Town of Dillon), Chief Minor (Town of Silverthorne) and I discussed the need for an armored vehicle for our newly formed Municipal Emergency Response Team (MERT). The three of us visited the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office (CCCSO) armored vehicle and had a lengthy discussion with Undersheriff Schelling about the use and practicality of having such a vehicle. It was decided after that meeting that we would go forward with recommending the purchase a Lenco Bearcat. The expense would be split equally amongst the three jurisdictions – Town of Frisco, Town of Dillon and Town of Silverthorne.

**Analysis:** The Lenco Bearcat can be used in a number of differing scenarios. The top seven uses are: 1) Citizen/First Responder Rescue, 2) Natural Disaster Response, 3) First Responder Protection, 4) Community Outreach, 5) Tactical Advantage, 6) All Hazards Response and 7) Acute Critical Incident Response.

What type of armored vehicle do we currently have at our disposal? The Peacekeeper. Since 2016, the Peacekeeper has been deployed on countless law related incidents in Summit County; however, it has pros and cons and is viewed as not a reliable piece of equipment due to the following:

1. Old and outdated (last manufactured in 1993)
2. Poor performance in adverse weather conditions
3. Not rated to stop high caliber rounds (bullets)
4. Not available to be accessed by any member of Dillon, Frisco or Silverthorne Police Departments
5. Average deployment time if available 2 hours (if it starts)

So why the Bearcat? Frankly, the Bearcat is superior to the Peacekeeper in terms of its armor and reliability. The Bearcat holds more officers or people during a rescue mission than the Peacekeeper. The Bearcat has more supplemental equipment, is more community friendly and has a 25-year life span of service. Finally, it gives the Dillon, Frisco and Silverthorne Police Departments immediate access to a piece of life saving equipment.

**Financial Impact:** Cost of the Lenco Bearcat with shipping is approximately \$365,698.00. Divided equally among three departments is roughly \$121,899.00. Currently the Town of Dillon has a certified mechanic who can maintain the vehicle, and Dillon would officially own the vehicle. We would need to store the vehicle and that is TBD. If Council is supportive of this request, this amount will be included in the 2023 proposed budget.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:** The Town is committed to providing quality core services with efficiency, excellent customer service, and professionalism. Purchasing the Lenco Bearcat and training staff on how to effectively utilize it provides essential public safety services to the community.

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends the purchase of the Lenco Bearcat as it is vital to saving lives. The Police Department staff has previously discussed other budget items and policies with Council, including take home vehicles. The vast majority of our officers feel the Bearcat purchase is vital in that it can save lives, and should be prioritized over other budget requests at this time. Perhaps the take home vehicles can be revisited in the future. Is Council supportive of this direction?

**Approved By:**

Tom Fisher, Town Manager  
Leslie Edwards, Finance Director

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 – Lenco Bearcat Presentation

Attachment 2 – Lenco Armored Vehicles, Volume I

Attachment 3 – Lenco Armored Vehicles, Volume II