

## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**TO:** BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
**FROM:** PETER MCGOWAN, POLICE CHIEF  
**SUBJECT:** DEPARTMENT ISSUE FIREARMS  
**DATE:** JUNE 11, 2014  
**CC:** DAVID RAMSAY

The Police Department has been struggling with a series of intermittent failures with our weapons for approximately 18 months. Officer Cash, the department armorer, has repaired or returned the weapons for repair as each situation came up. Over the last 60 days, during our year end firearms qualifications, we have had six (6) malfunctions with the weapons at both the MPTC range and our range downstairs. External causes, such as ammunition, have all been excluded. This has now become a confidence issue with the weapon for the officers, as well as a safety issue.

I tasked Sgt Wilcox and a committee of officers to come up with a proposal for replacement firearms. They are almost completely through the process and I ask that the board authorize a reserve fund transfer as follows:

New Firearms, holsters, and ammunition pouches (incl ammunition)  
\$20560.00

Trade in of current weapons @\$301 per  
<7224.00>

Net cost of replacement \$13336.00

Please note that firearms replacement is on the capital budget long range plan, but replacing these weapons as quickly as possible is my strong recommendation. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If a cruiser doesn't start, we can jump it. A computer freezes up, we can reboot. If a weapon doesn't fire when we need it to, I hate to consider the result.