



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 07, 2006

Special/Council Session

## Item G20

**#2006-87 - Approving Termination of SWAT Interlocal Agreement  
with Hall County**

Staff Contact: Steve Lamken

# **Council Agenda Memo**

**From:** Steven Lamken, Police Chief  
**Meeting:** March 7, 2006  
**Subject:** SWAT Team Interlocal Agreement  
**Item #'s:** G-20  
**Presenter(s):** Steven Lamken, Police Chief

## **Background**

The City entered into an Interlocal Agreement with Hall County to form a joint Special Weapons and Tactics Team in March of 2004. The concept was to have officers from both agencies serving on the joint team. The team would respond to incidents in both the City and County as needed. Since inception, the Team has trained and prepared to function as a full service SWAT Team; however, has never been deployed as a fully operational team. Concerns have been voiced by the Council and others that this is a duplication of services with the Nebraska State Patrol SWAT Team in the Troop C area. There have been additional concerns relevant to the costs of training and equipping the team to become a fully operational SWAT team.

## **Discussion**

The Police Department management team is recommending that the City Council resolve to dissolve the Interlocal SWAT Team agreement with Hall County. We further recommend that the Grand Island Police Department be permitted to reorganize the structure of the existing team to the limited scope of warrant service and perimeter security.

The recommendation to dissolve the Interlocal agreement is based upon:

- The long term direction of the role and services of the team have not been in accordance with the direction of the City Council.
- The long term direction of the role and services of the team were not in agreement with the Hall County Sheriff. This has led to a reduction in involvement of the HCSO in the team.

- The Nebraska State Patrol has a full service SWAT team in Troop C which has been responsive to requests for service from the Grand Island Police Department.
- The training being received by the Interlocal team has been directed more towards a full service SWAT team and not just a warrant service team.
- The command and control of the Interlocal SWAT team has been held jointly under two supervisor/coordinators who are members of the team. The level of command and control exercised independently over the team by the Chief of Police and or the Hall County Sheriff is not clearly defined.

The management team recommendation to reorganize the structure of the team and create a Police Department warrant service team is based upon:

- The Grand Island Police Department is frequently called upon to serve arrest and search warrants that have an elevated level of risk to the safety of officers.
- The Grand Island Police Department is called upon to handle calls for service where a despondent person is barricaded in a building. The person will not initiate contact for help and the department is responsible to secure the perimeter around the building and negotiate with the person.
- The Nebraska State Patrol has specific protocols for the activation of their SWAT teams.
- The Nebraska State Patrol protocols limits when they will respond to warrant service calls and or barricaded suspects.
- The safe execution of building entry warrants and the securing of perimeters requires specialized training. The use of police officers who have not received specialized training to perform such services increases the risk of harm to themselves and others.
- A unit with specialized training in the limited areas of warrant service and perimeter security can provide improved safety for officers of the department as well as the people of the City.

The reorganized warrant service unit will be under the direct command of the Chief of Police and his designated commander. The Chief of Police will ensure the strategies, training, supervision and deployment of the unit fall within the limited scope of services recommended.

## **Alternatives**

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

## **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the termination of the Interlocal Agreement with Hall County and restructure the program into a warrant service team.

## **Sample Motion**

Motion to approve the termination of the Interlocal Agreement with Hall County and restructure the program into a warrant service team.

RESOLUTION 2006-87

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island (City) entered into a "Interlocal Agreement By and Between the County of Hall and the City of Grand Island for Joint Special Weapons and Tactics Team," with the County of Hall (County) dated March 9, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the term of this agreement is for five years with renewals for successive one year periods; and

WHEREAS, the agreement permits the City or the County to terminate the agreement upon thirty days prior written notice; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska State Patrol has a full service SWAT team located in the City which is available to assist law enforcement as needed; and

WHEREAS, the City's Police Department is seeking to avoid duplication of services and reallocate personnel in a more effective manner; and

WHEREAS, the City Police Department is recommending that it would be in the best interest of the Police Department to terminate the interlocal agreement for a SWAT team with Hall County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the "Interlocal Agreement By and Between the County of Hall and the City of Grand Island for Joint Special Weapons and Tactics Team" dated March 9, 2004, shall be terminated and the Mayor is authorized to sign a thirty day notice which shall be given to the County of such termination pursuant to paragraph "4" of the agreement.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, March 7, 2006.

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Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

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RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
March 2, 2006	☐ City Attorney