

McAllen buys \$150,000 SWAT vehicle

[Dave Hendricks](#)

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McALLEN — Just the sight of McAllen's new, heavily armored SWAT vehicle may give criminals pause.

With 11 gun ports, a rotating turret and room for 10 officers, the modified Ford F-550 will help city police handle high-risk calls, police Chief Victor Rodriguez said. Cash and other assets seized during police operations will cover the emergency service unit's \$150,000 price tag.

McAllen agreed to purchase a gently used demo model with 800 miles on the odometer, Rodriguez said.

"It's new for all practical purposes," Rodriguez said.

McAllen's City Commission unanimously approved the purchase Monday night during its regular meeting. The armored vehicle should arrive in McAllen within a few weeks.

Four Texas-based companies and two Massachusetts-based companies bid on the contract, submitting prices between \$150,000 and \$198,750, according to bid documents given to city leaders. Armored Solutions of Pittsfield, Mass., submitted the low bid, promising to deliver the vehicle for \$150,000. Armored Solutions beat Nederland-based Philpott Motors by \$9,500.

The same model would have cost \$211,440 new.

McAllen sought a smaller, faster vehicle for city use, Rodriguez said.

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