



# City Council Report

**Date:** August 21, 2023  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** Scott Butler, Assistant City Manager  
**From:** Ken Cost, Police Chief  
Timothy Walker, Commander  
**Subject:** Arizona State Treasurer Appropriation for a Pilot Pepper Ball Program

## Purpose and Recommendation

The City of Mesa Police Department is respectfully requesting the Mesa City Council approve and authorize the City Manager or his designee to accept \$250,000 from the Arizona State Treasurer and any associated Agreements. Funding will be used for pepper ball equipment, supplies, and training for the Mesa Police Department.

## Background

Under Senate Bill 1720, the Arizona State Treasurer has appropriated \$250,000 to the Mesa Police Department as one of three cities to pilot a pepper ball program. The pepper ball program is intended to test a less lethal force option to be used when faced with certain levels of resistance or crowd dispersal scenarios that can be deployed at a distance of greater than twenty-five feet, and that is not intended to cause significant bodily injury.

## Discussion

Pepper ball deployment is designed to be a safer option used sooner than other force options, pepper ball is a versatile and useful option. The Police Departments pepper ball policy was approved in May 2023. The units are used within patrol and special operations.

## Alternatives

If this item is not approved, the Mesa Police Department will decline the funds and the State may choose to distribute them to a different agency.

## Fiscal Impact

The Department shall purchase equipment, supplies, and training as identified for the program and report to the State as required.

## Coordinated With

The City of Mesa Police Department recommends the acceptance of \$250,000 and any Agreements from the Arizona State Treasurer for this pilot pepper ball program.