



Protective Body Armor Fund (BARM) FY 2024

Public Safety Article, § 4-107

Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.
Executive Director
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Submitted by:
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July 19, 2024

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor



DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

July 19, 2024

The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable William C. "Bill" Ferguson IV
President of the Senate
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Adrienne Jones
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Report required by Public Safety Article § 4-107 (MSAR #5650) - Protective Body Armor Fund (BARM) FY 2024 Report

Dear Governor Moore, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

As required by § 4-107 of the Public Safety Article, please find an enclosed copy of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy's report, titled *Protective Body Armor Fund (BARM) FY 2024 Report*. This report includes information regarding the distribution of money under this subtitle, as well as the ratio of protective body armor to police officers in each local jurisdiction of the State that applied for money from the Protective Body Armor Fund.

Should you have any questions relating to the information provided in this report, please feel free to contact me at 410-697-9338.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorothy J. Lennig".

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.
Executive Director

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Background	2
Protective Body Armor Fund	2
Distribution of Protective Body Armor Fund Awards	3
Ratio of Protective Body Armor to Police Officers	4
Conclusion	4

Introduction

In accordance with § 4-107 of the Public Safety Article, the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (Office) must submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by September 1 of each year as it relates to:

- The distribution of money under this subtitle; and
- The ratio of protective body armor to police officers in each local jurisdiction of the State that applies for money from the Protective Body Armor Fund.

Pursuant to its charge, this *Protective Body Armor Fund (BARM) FY 2024 Report* includes information on the allocation of grant funds to local law enforcement agencies to purchase 131 body armor vests as well as the ratio of vests to sworn officers during the reporting period. It also provides a follow-up to several reports submitted in prior years. To view these reports, please visit the Office’s website at <https://goccp.maryland.gov/reports-and-publications/>.

Background

Sections 4-101 through 4-107 of the Public Safety Article established the Protective Body Armor Fund and required the Office to administer funding. It also allows local law enforcement agencies to request funding for protective body armor that conforms to the current edition of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Standard and V-50 ballistic testing requirements. Agencies that request funding must provide a 50% cash match from the agency or county budget; however, State funds cannot be used to meet the match requirement. For more information on the NIJ Standard and testing requirements of protective body armor, please visit:

<https://nij.ojp.gov/ballistic-resistance-body-armor-nij-standard-010107> and

<https://nij.ojp.gov/specification-nij-ballistic-protection-levels-and-associated-test-threats-nij-standard-012300>.

Protective Body Armor Fund

The primary purpose of the BARM grant program is to protect the lives of law enforcement officers with protective body armor or stab-resistant vests.¹ Funds are used to assist local law enforcement agencies in procuring protective body armor and stab-resistant vests for their officers and replacing protective body armor if testing or age indicates a need for replacement.

¹ Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. *Body Armor for Local Law Enforcement (BARM)*. <http://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/barm/>

Distribution of Protective Body Armor Fund Awards

To receive assistance from the BARM grant program, a 50% cash match is required. As shown below, if a law enforcement agency requests \$500, they must provide a match of \$500 which would result in the total purchase of \$1,000 in vests.

\$500 request + \$500 match = \$1,000 total purchase for vests

In addition, law enforcement agencies must indicate how the cash match will be provided in their application narrative.² The cash match may take the form of funds contributed from local governments such as agency or county budgets. State grant funds cannot be used to meet the BARM match requirement. Funds from the Federal Bulletproof Vest Program may also be used to meet the BARM match requirement. Sub-recipients must maintain records which clearly show the source and amount of all matching contributions.

In 2024, the Office awarded \$49,088 from the BARM grant program to nine local law enforcement agencies within nine jurisdictions for the combined purchase of 131 body armor vests (*as illustrated below*).

Jurisdiction	Agency	Award Amount	Vests Awarded (includes match funds)	Vests Requested
Baltimore	Community College of Baltimore County	\$6,300.00	14	22
Carroll	Carroll County Sheriff's Office	\$9,800.00	28	28
Cecil	Elkton Police Department	\$7,700.00	22	28
Dorchester	Dorchester County Sheriff's Office	\$4,492.00	8	16
Harford	Bel Air Police Department	\$2,669.00	5	5
Prince George's	Prince George's County Sheriff's Office	\$3,000.00	6	10
Somerset	Princess Anne Police Department	\$4,270.00	14	16
Washington	Washington County Sheriff's Office	\$7,065.00	18	24
Wicomico	Fruitland Police Department	\$3,792.00	16	16
Totals		\$49,088.00	131	165

²For more information regarding match requirements and provisions, please refer to the Office's Grant Match Calculator and Provisions page at: <https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/tips-and-guidance/grant-match/>

Ratio of Protective Body Armor to Police Officers

Based on information reported by the nine awarded law enforcement agencies, there were a total of 670 sworn officers during the reporting period. From this total, 19.55% (n = 131) received a vest through the BARM grant award (*as illustrated below*).

Jurisdiction	Agency	Sworn Officers	Vests Awarded (includes match funds)	Ratio of Awarded Body Armor to Sworn Officers
Baltimore	Community College of Baltimore County	27	14	51.85%
Carroll	Carroll County Sheriff's Office	132	28	21.21%
Cecil	Elkton Police Department	45	22	48.89%
Dorchester	Dorchester County Sheriff's Office	46	8	17.39%
Harford	Bel Air Police Department	30	5	16.67%
Prince George's	Prince George's County Sheriff's Office	252	6	2.38%
Somerset	Princess Anne Police Department	13	14	107.69%
Washington	Washington County Sheriff's Office	107	18	16.82%
Wicomico	Fruitland Police Department	18	16	88.89%
Totals		670	131	19.55%

Conclusion

The Office recognizes the importance of BARM grant funds for officer safety throughout Maryland and will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies to ensure funds are available for protective body armor or stab-resistant vests.