



**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH,  
AND VICTIM SERVICES**

**Protective Body Armor Fund (BARM) FY 2022**

*Public Safety Article § 4-107, House Bill 325 (2006)*

**Larry Hogan**  
Governor

**Boyd K. Rutherford**  
Lt. Governor

**Kunle Adeyemo, Esq.**  
Executive Director

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

Submitted by:  
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

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September 1, 2022  
MSAR #5650



## GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

Community Initiatives • Service & Volunteerism • Deaf & Hard of Hearing  
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**FROM: Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services**

August 23, 2022

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
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)**

Dear Governor Hogan, 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, Youth, and Victim Services' report titled, *Protective Body Armor Fund (BARM) FY 2022*. 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, appearing to read "Kunle Adeyemo".

Kunle Adeyemo, Esq.  
Executive Director

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

GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES  
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CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023

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# Introduction

In 1995, legislation established the Protective Body Armor Fund to be administered by the Department of State Police to assist local law enforcement agencies to (i) acquire protective body armor for each police officer of the local law enforcement agency; and (ii) replace protective body armor at least every 10 years, or sooner if testing indicates a need for replacement.<sup>1</sup>

Chapter 462 of 2005 authorized the Department of State Police to distribute money from the Protective Body Armor Fund to the Division of Parole and Probation (in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services) for the acquisition of protective body armor for its agents.<sup>2</sup> This allocation was permissible only after required and permitted allocations were made to eligible local law enforcement agencies.<sup>3</sup>

House Bill 325 (2006) transferred the administration of the Protective Body Armor Fund from the Department of State Police to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (Office), effective July 1, 2006.<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to § 4-107 of the Public Safety Article, the Office shall submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly by September 1 of each year as it relates to:

1. The distribution of money under this subtitle; and
2. 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.

## Protective Body Armor Fund

The primary purpose of the Protective Body Armor Fund, also known as the [Body Armor for Local Law Enforcement \(BARM\)](#) grant program, is to protect the lives of law enforcement officers with protective body armor or stab resistant vests.<sup>5</sup> Funds are used to assist law enforcement agencies procure protective body armor for their officers and replace protective body armor if testing or age indicates a need for replacement. According to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), "protective vests for law enforcement officers include ballistic- and

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland General Assembly. (2006). [House Bill 325 \(2006\). Department of State Police - Protective Body Armor Fund - Transfer to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.](#)

<sup>2</sup> Maryland General Assembly. (2005). [Chapter 462 \(Senate Bill 135\). Public Safety - Protective Body Armor Fund - Additional Use.](#)

<sup>3</sup> Maryland General Assembly. (2005). [Senate Bill 135 \(2005\). Public Safety - Protective Body Armor Fund - Additional Use \(Fiscal and Policy Note Revised\).](#)

<sup>4</sup> Maryland General Assembly. (2006). [House Bill 325 \(2006\). Department of State Police - Protective Body Armor Fund - Transfer to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.](#)

<sup>5</sup> Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. [Body Armor for Local Law Enforcement \(BARM\).](#)

stab-resistant body armor that provides coverage and protection primarily for the torso” (*as described below*).<sup>6</sup>

- Ballistic-resistant body armor provides protection against bullet penetrations as well as blunt trauma that is associated with the impact of the bullet. “These vests include soft body armor that protects against handgun bullets, and less flexible tactical armor composed of soft and hard components that protect against rifle bullets.”<sup>7</sup>
- Stab-resistant body armor provides protection against knives and spikes.

NIJ intends to publish the seventh version of its body armor performance standard in 2022,<sup>8</sup> “which will include improved test methods for female body armor and updated body armor protection levels that incorporate additional rifle threats faced by U.S law enforcement.”<sup>9</sup> “The new draft version, [NIJ 0101.07 Ballistic Resistance of Body Armor](#), draws from more than ten years of testing conducted under the previous standard (0101.06)” which was developed through an [NIJ Special Technical Committee](#), consisting of criminal justice professionals and testing experts from NIJ and Compliance Testing Program staff.<sup>10</sup>

To receive assistance from the Protective Body Armor Fund through BARM, law enforcement agencies must first expend funds from its own source to acquire or replace protective body armor. The amount agencies spend from their own source must be at least equal to the amount awarded from the Protective Body Armor Fund through BARM. Such funds may only be used as an addition to, and may not be substituted for, funds appropriated from sources other than the Protective Body Armor Fund through BARM.

In accordance with § 4-103(b) of the Public Safety Article, law enforcement agencies must provide the following information in order to apply for the Protective Body Armor Fund through BARM (*as illustrated below*):

1. The number of violent crime incidents committed within the jurisdiction of the local law enforcement agency for the last 2 years;
2. The current number of sworn officers;
3. The current number of sworn officers not assigned protective body armor;
4. The number and age of protective body armor units currently in use by the local law enforcement agency;

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<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. (2019). [National Institute of Journal Issue 280: Focus on Law Enforcement](#) (NCJ 252031). National Institute of Justice Journal.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> PoliceArmor.org. [Coming Soon: Revisions to NIJ Ballistic-Resistance Body Armor Standard](#).

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. (2018). [The Next Revision of the NIJ Performance Standard for Ballistic Resistance of Body Armor. NIJ Standard 0101.07: Changes to Test Methods and Test Threats](#).

<sup>10</sup> PoliceArmor.org. [Coming Soon: Revisions to NIJ Ballistic-Resistance Body Armor Standard](#).

5. The number of protective body armor units requested;
  - a. For officers not currently assigned protective body armor; and
  - b. For officers assigned protective body armor in need of replacement due to age or wear;
6. The regulations of the local law enforcement agency that relate to the use of protective body armor;
7. The local law enforcement agency's budget request for supplies and equipment for the current and last two fiscal years; and
8. Any other information that the Executive Director of the Office considers necessary to make grants for protective body armor.

## Distribution of Protective Body Armor Fund Awards

Body armor is critical safety equipment for the personal protection of law enforcement officers. "Although there is no such thing as bulletproof armor, ballistic-resistant body armor can protect against many types of handgun and rifle ammunition."<sup>11</sup> Since it was established in 1987, "the International Association of Chiefs of Police/DuPont Kevlar Survivors' Club has recognized more than 3,100 officers who have been saved from death or serious injury by wearing body armor."<sup>12</sup> Given its effective use to protect against injury, law enforcement agencies are eager to procure protective body armor for its officers. Unfortunately, many local law enforcement agencies struggle with the financial burden associated with its economy. This is especially true for small agencies staffed with only a few officers and a chief. These small agencies are often challenged by the 50% cash match which is required by the BARM grant program to purchase protective body armor. Regardless of its financial burden, each agency understands the value and significance of protective body armor for its officers, as well as the consequence and lack of protection for those officers without protective body armor. Because of this, local law enforcement agencies, both big and small, strive to provide the 50% cash match to protect its officers. In 2022, the Office awarded \$48,988 from the BARM grant program to 10 local law enforcement agencies within nine counties, for the combined purchase of 151 body armor vests (*as illustrated below*).

Jurisdiction	Agency	Award Amount	Number of Vests Awarded including Match Funds	Number of Vests Requested
Baltimore	Baltimore County Police Department	\$4,802	28	56
Carroll	Carroll County Sheriff's Office	\$6,590	20	30
Dorchester	Dorchester County Sheriff's Office	\$4,942	10	20

<sup>11</sup> Green, M. (2019). [\*Body Armor: Protecting Our Nation's Officers From Ballistic Threats\*](#) (NCJ 252033). National Institute of Justice Journal.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

Dorchester	Cambridge Police Department	\$2,293	5	10
Frederick	Frederick City Police Department	\$4,740	20	20
Harford	Town of Bel Air	\$4,235	6	6
Montgomery	Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	\$8,700	12	12
Somerset	Princess Anne Police Department	\$1,655	10	10
Washington	Washington County Sheriff's Office	\$8,021	26	26
Wicomico	Fruitland Police Department	\$3,010	14	14
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$48,988</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>204</b>

## Ratio of Protective Body Armor to Police Officers

In accordance with § 4-103 of the Public Safety Article, local law enforcement agencies that apply for funds under BARM must provide information to include the number of sworn officers, the number of vests awarded, and the ratio of body armor funded to sworn officers. These figures are captured in the illustration below.

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Number of Sworn Officers</b>	<b>Number of Vests Awarded including Match Funds</b>	<b>Ratio of Body Armor Funded to Sworn Officers</b>
<b>Baltimore</b>	Baltimore County Police Department	1,861	28	1.50%
<b>Carroll</b>	Carroll County Sheriff's Office	132	20	15.15%
<b>Dorchester</b>	Dorchester County Sheriff's Office	39	10	27.77%
	Cambridge Police Department	36	5	13.88%
<b>Frederick</b>	Frederick City Police Department	149	20	13.42%
<b>Harford</b>	Town of Bel Air	32	6	18.75%
<b>Montgomery</b>	Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	154	12	7.79%
<b>Somerset</b>	Princess Anne Police Department	11	10	90.00%
<b>Washington</b>	Washington County Sheriff's Office	109	26	23.85%
<b>Wicomico</b>	Fruitland Police Department	22	14	63.63%

## **Conclusion**

The Office recognizes the importance of BARM grant funds for officer safety throughout Maryland, and was pleased to provide \$48,988 in funding for the combined purchase of 151 body armor vests - 75.5 vests were funded through the BARM grant program and 75.5 vests were funded through the 50% cash match requirement.