

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Office of Grants and Research



Bulletproof Vest Program
Funding Available to Municipal Police Departments

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Overview

The Bulletproof Vest Program (BVP) provides reimbursement to Massachusetts municipal police departments for up to 50% of the cost of bulletproof vests. To be eligible for this state-funded program, a department must have already applied for and been approved for reimbursement from the federal government under the Bureau of Justice Assistance's [Patrick Leahy Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership](#) Grant Act of 1998, which provides reimbursement of up to 50% of the cost of bulletproof vests. Combined, the two programs can cover the full cost of eligible bulletproof vests purchased by Massachusetts municipal police departments.

Eligible purchases include:

- A bulletproof vest for a member of the purchasing law enforcement agency who has not previously been issued a bulletproof vest, and
- The replacement of any bulletproof vest that was purchased on or after July 1, 2000, and is older than 5 years from the date of such purchase.

Vests must be the property of the police department. All applicants for reimbursement are required to submit any relevant documentation reasonably requested by the Office of Grants and Research as a condition of reimbursement.

As funding is limited, reimbursement through the BVP is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Eligibility

Only a police department from a Massachusetts municipality (local unit of government) is eligible to apply for reimbursement through this program. Certain personnel of other agencies within the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), as determined by the Secretary of Public Safety and Security, may be eligible.

Any officer receiving a vest must be full-time or part-time, sworn personnel of the local police department. Officers must have graduated from a recognized Police or Reserve Intermittent Academy.

Please note that individual law enforcement officers are not eligible to receive reimbursement through this program.

Equipment Requirements

- Vests purchased must be Threat Levels I and above.
- Vests purchased must be certified by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and on the latest NIJ standards list of American-made vests.
- Vests must be purchased in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B and the applicant agency's policies and procedures regarding procurement purchases.

- Vest must be purchased for a member of the department who has not previously been issued a bulletproof vest or as a replacement for any bulletproof vest that was purchased on or after July 1, 2000, and is older than 5 years from the date of such purchase.

Key Dates

Requests are reviewed as they are received, and funds will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. Funds are made available for this program each state fiscal year.

Application Instructions

1. Receipt of Federal Reimbursement

To be eligible for reimbursement through the BVP, a department must apply for and receive approval of reimbursement through the [Patrick Leahy Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program](#) for up to 50% of the cost of the bulletproof vest(s).

Documentation of federal approval or payment must be submitted with a request for reimbursement of the remaining costs through the BVP.

There are two options for allowable documentation of federal reimbursement:

- A PDF copy/screenshot from the Federal BVP website that shows “**Approved by BVP**” regarding the request for reimbursement and including the amount or proof of payment. Please note that the preliminary screen print that merely acknowledges receipt for the request for reimbursement is insufficient. [BVP Sample of DOJ Approved Status](#)
- A PDF copy/screenshot of bank statement or other bank document reflecting a deposit from the DOJ to the city's or town's bank account in the amount of the reimbursement and a reference to “BVP” is a suitable substitute. [BVP Sample of DOJ Bank Deposit](#)

OGR is not able to provide assistance regarding the Patrick Leahy Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. Please contact the federal program directly at vests@usdoj.gov or by calling 1-877-758-3787.

2. Contract with OGR

If the bulletproof vest invoice is dated March 1, 2022, or later, you must either have a 2022-2027 contract on file with OGR or submit a new 2022-2027 contract package with your reimbursement request. To check if your department has a contract on file, open the online [Bulletproof Vest Reimbursement Request Form](#) and select your department from the dropdown list.

For bulletproof vest invoices dated prior to March 1, 2022, please contact OGR.BPVRR@mass.gov and OGR will provide contracting materials for the appropriate time period.

Submitting a contract (if no contract is currently on file)

Download the [2022-2027 contract package](#). Each contract package contains:

- **Commonwealth 5-Year Standard Contract** – Must be signed by the Chief of Police or Senior Municipal Official, as indicated on the Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing form.
- **Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing** – Please review these [Helpful Hints](#) for completing the updated Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing form.
- **OGR Grant Conditions/Scope of Work** – This form must be initialed by the Chief of Police or Senior Municipal Official, as indicated on the Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing form.
 - Please note: The receipt of grant funds is contingent upon the grantee’s ability to certify that it will comply with the Massachusetts General Laws, including G.L. c. 40A, § 3A, the MBTA Communities Act. Compliance with the MBTA Communities Act is determined by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

Please complete and sign the contract documents. Acceptable forms of signature include:

- Traditional “wet signature” (ink on paper),
- Electronic signature that is either
 - Hand drawn using a mouse or finger if working from a touch screen device or
 - An upload picture of the signatory’s hand drawn signature, or
- Electronic signature affixed using a digital tool such as Adobe Sign or DocuSign.

Once completed, upload the contract package to the online reimbursement form. OGR will notify the department upon execution of the contract.

3. Invoices/receipts

Scanned/PDF copies of invoices/purchase receipts for all vests included in the request for reimbursement.

4. Submission

Applicants must submit the online [Bulletproof Vest Reimbursement Request Form](#) with required documentation included as attachments.

It is recommended that prior to starting the form, applicants gather necessary documents and information, including name of officer(s) receiving a vest, officer date(s) of birth, number of vests purchased, date of purchase, and amount requested for reimbursement for each vest.

Missing documentation will result in delays in reimbursement. OGR will contact departments via email in the event an application is incomplete or missing the required documentation.

Notification of Reimbursement

Once the online Reimbursement Form is submitted, the applicant will receive a confirmation email, which will include the full application and all responses. Please check your Junk email box if a confirmation email is not received in your Inbox. The confirmation email documents the submission and should be retained for the applicant's records.

Due to the volume of reimbursement requests received by OGR, departments will **not** be notified once their application is approved for funding. However, law enforcement agencies may obtain information about past or scheduled BVP payments from the Commonwealth on [VendorWeb](#). To login, you will need your 12-character Vendor Code and the last four digits of your Tax Identification Number. Both items should be available from your municipal or agency accounting/finance departments. Please allow 6-8 weeks for payments to be processed.

Submission Checklist

- ☐ Received approval of reimbursement through the Patrick Leahy Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program.
- ☐ Contract for 2022-2027 on file or submitted via an upload to the online reimbursement form.
- ☐ Online Bulletproof Vest Reimbursement Request Form completed and submitted with the following documents attached:
 - ☐ Invoices/receipts for all bulletproof vests included in the request for reimbursement, and
 - ☐ Proof of federal reimbursement.