
FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/2/2023

TO: Kirk McDonald, Senior Procurement Specialist

FROM: Christopher W. Kuras, Police Officer, Subject Matter Expert (SME)

SUBJECT: FLPD Rifle Purchase Bid Rebuttal Sionics Rifles Vs Cobalt Kinetics

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department has researched and selected the Cobalt Kinetics Pro 11.5 Inch Rifle to meet the needs of the Police Department as the duty rifle for officers.

Upon reading and researching the Sionics bid proposal, we have found several items do not meet the requirements requested by FLPD. Listed below are the items specified to be different from our request from the manufacturer.

Handguard

Cobalt Kinetics – 7 side Mlok handguard. Self-centering, non-rotating handguard that is hard mounted directly to the upper receiver. The handguard is not attached to the barrel nut and is to be independent of barrel attachment.

Sionics – Mlok with 3 and 9 o'clock position attachments. Handguard is attached to the barrel nut and is not independent of the barrel attachment.

Cobalt Kinetics has 7 position Mlok attachment vs 2 from Sionics. The FLPD rifle program includes attaching a rail mounted flashlight to the rifle via the Mlok attachments. FLPD chose a 7-position rail to allow officers to attach accessories to the rail to allow comfort and easy accessibility.

The barrel attachment of Sionics is also directly mounted to the barrel instead of the receiver. This can impact accuracy and the life of the barrel. The attachment of the handguard on the Cobalt Kinetics rifle has been found to be superior in testing by FLPD and was a very important factor in our decision-making process.

Buffer System

Cobalt Kinetics – 7 position A5/CK buffer system shows less recoil and more adjustment of the buttstock position for the user.

Sionics – 6 position mil spec

During our testing, the 7-position buffer system showed significantly less recoil to the shooter which resulted in increased accuracy. 7 positions are also more adjustable for the shooter increasing in usability for officers.

Trigger Guard

Cobalt Kinetics – integrated into the lower receiver – NOT held in place with milspec pins

Sionics – held with milspec pins.

Recently this has become an important issue as FLPD vehicles were burglarized and rifles stolen from FLPD vehicle rifle racks. The rifle racks secure the rifle by locking the trigger guard. The suspects were able to remove the rifle from the secured rack by breaking the pins and removing the trigger guard from the lower receiver. The Cobalt Kinetics Rifle is an integrated trigger guard. Meaning, the trigger guard is not held in by any pins and it is one solid piece of aluminum forged as part of the receiver. This significantly reduces the ability of anyone being able to steal FLPD rifles that are secured in secured rifle racks.

It is the opinion of FLPD training unit this is a non-negotiable item request.

Conclusion

Based on the items listed, Sionics rifles would not be considered for the FLPD rifle program. The listed items were found to be important factors in our testing, all making the rifles more accurate, have less recoil, and more comfortable for the user. Consider the extremely high liability of this piece of equipment. It is the opinion of the FLPD training unit that the Sionics rifle would be less accurate, produce more recoil, and have less adjustability limiting the user to be forced to configure the weapon in a way that is less than optimal. All of these factors would disqualify Sionics from this bid process.

Based on unit experience and research, the Cobalt Kinetics Pro Rifle, meets all the needs of a duty rifle based on quality, performance, and the company warranty program. The Fort Lauderdale Police Department Training unit acknowledges that no weapon system is perfect for all applications, but we have found the Cobalt Kinetics 11.5 Inch Pro to fit the majority of the requirements and needs of this agency.

A term used to describe rifles and rifle parts is "Mil-Spec". Mil Spec is a term used to describe a part or item as meeting minimum military specification (ex. barrel, trigger, etc.). Considering the high liability of these types of weapon systems being used on duty by FLPD officers, it was the goal of the FLPD Training Unit to choose a rifle that is above a minimum standard. The Cobalt Kinetics Pro Rifle exceeds quality and accuracy beyond what has been determined as a "mil spec" rifle.

The Cobalt Kinetics Pro 11.5 Inch Rifle meets all the following criteria:

- Direct Impingement Gas System
- Upper receiver: 7075 T6 Billet
- Lower receiver: 7075 T6 Billet
- Handguard: 6061, Semi-Monolithic, **M-Lok** (7-sided) – self centering, non-rotating handguard that is hard mounted directly to the upper receiver. Handguard is not attached to the barrel nut. Handguard attached independent of barrel attachment.
- Barrel: 11.5" 5.56 NATO 1:7 -
- Twist Rate: 1/7 RH
- Gas Block: fixed low profile (Non-Adj.), .750 dia
- BCG: BCG - M16 MPI/ HPT Chrome line/Phosphate
- Dust cover: Mil Spec Dust Cover
- Safety: Ambidextrous
- Mag release: Ambidextrous
- Trigger: Single Stage Mil Spec trigger

- Buffer System: 7 position A5/ CK buffer system, anti-tilt buffer
- Grip: B5 Systems P-Grip – or similar in size and angle
- End plate –QD end plate
- Trigger guard – integrated into lower receiver – not held by pins
- Iron Sights – metal flip up front and rear irons
- Company offers extensive warranty (lifetime) and customer service program.

Further detailed information: Continued

Upper Receiver/Lower Receiver/Handguard hand fit

- Each cobalt rifle is hand fit by an armorer. These three components being hand makes these rifles perform far above mil-spec standards. The average mil-spec rifle traditionally comes from a group of parts.

Cobalt Kinetics Handguard

- 6061, Semi-Monolithic, M-Lok (7-sided) – self centering, non-rotating handguard that is hard mounted directly to the upper receiver. Handguard is not attached to the barrel nut. Handguard attached independent of barrel attachment. This type of barrel and handguard attachment is proprietary to Cobalt Kinetics Rifles and NOT mil-spec.

Ambidextrous Controls

- Each rifle will include ambidextrous safety, charging handle, and magazine release. Mil-spec rifles do not include any ambidextrous options.

Buffer System

- 7 position A5/ CK buffer system, anti-tilt buffer. This system significantly reduces felt recoil to the shooter. The combination of this buffer system also reduces duty wear on the rifle.

Trigger Guard

- The trigger guard on the Cobalt rifle is integrated into the lower receiver as one solid piece, not held in by pins. Mil-spec rifle are traditionally held in by pins. Trigger guards held in place by pins are a security issue for FLPD rifle racks and increase the chances of rifle theft. Having an integrated trigger guard decreases the risk of theft from FLPD vehicles with rifle racks.

Magazines

- Magazines: Duramag Steel 30 rd magazines (2) included with each rifle in this contract. Majority of companies offer only one or no magazine included.

Warranty

- Cobalt Kinetics Lifetime Warranty - against all manufacturer defects and Duty use. Duty Use to include barrel replacement All accessories-items that do not come as a standard component of the rifle are covered under their own warranties from their respective companies, however any

purchased under this contract Cobalt Kinetics will handle communications and logistics of all warranty claims.

Officer Involved Shooting Program

- In the event a Cobalt Kinetics contract rifle with the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department is used in an “on duty” officer involved shooting and is then pulled out of duty. An equivalent loaner rifle will be provided by Cobalt Kinetics for the time of that rifle's unavailability.

Armorer training and continuing support

- Cobalt Kinetics will perform an onsite delivery inspection with each delivery of contract rifles, as well Cobalt Kinetics will incur the costs of sending a certified Armorer and instructor to the Fort Lauderdale Police department for instruction of up to 10 FLPD armorers/designated armory techs to certify them as Cobalt Kinetics Armorers.

Price Guarantee

- For 2 years from date of purchase, Cobalt Kinetics will guarantee a set price of future rifles to the agency if the rifle is of the same specifications as the original purchase.

At the conclusion of testing, we have found the Cobalt Kinetics Pro Rifle meets our needs and the needs of our officers for a duty rifle. Cobalt Kinetics as a company has offered a level of customer service that we have not found another company can match or beat.