

MEDIA RELEASE

On August 25, 2014, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office took delivery of its newest piece of safety equipment; a Lenco BearCat multi-use vehicle. This vehicle is built on a Ford F550 4WD chassis powered by a 6.7 liter diesel engine. It is designed and constructed to provide its occupants and users with a high level of ballistic protection.

It will be used to provide safety and cover for deputies and officers when responding to calls involving active shooters, barricaded suspects who are armed and dangerous and high risk warrant services. It can also be used to rescue victims and evacuate citizens from harm's way. This vehicle is equipped with a digital and infrared camera which can be used by Search and Rescue to locate missing children and adults.

This vehicle cost \$319,739. It was paid for with drug seizure money. How drug seizure money is used is regulated by law; typically, forfeiture money can only be used to purchase equipment and training.

The Lenco BearCat was chosen over other new and surplus vehicles because its smaller size and drivability make it extremely versatile. It also has an excellent reputation for reliability and ease of maintenance. It replaces a 1989 GMC armored coin car with 300,000 miles.