



Program guidelines

Public Safety Vest Reimbursement

Date guidelines released:	March 31, 2025
Application period:	July 1 – June 30 for vests purchased within the previous 365 calendar days.
State Agency:	Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS)
Administering Unit:	DPS Fiscal and Administrative Services (FAS)
Inquiries:	If you have any questions, contact the Vest Administrator at 651-201-7160 or email softbodyarmor.dps@state.mn.us .
Authorities	Minnesota Statute Section 299A.38 Minnesota Rules Chapter 7522

Program guidelines

1. Introduction

The DPS FAS division is responsible for administering the Public Safety Vest Reimbursement program, under [Minnesota Statute 299A.38](#).

DPS provides reimbursement for up to one-half of the purchase price of vests for each eligible peace officer, firefighter, and qualified emergency medical service provider. These funds come from the state of Minnesota's Soft Body Armor Reimbursement Account and are based on the availability of funds.

This document sets out guidelines for applicants of the Public Safety Vest Reimbursement Program.

2. Program guidelines

2.1 Program goal

The vest reimbursement program was established in 1989 to reimburse peace officers for a portion of the funds spent to purchase vests. In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature expanded the program to include firefighters and qualified emergency medical service providers.

2.2 Eligibility criteria

- You must be a public safety officer as that term is defined in Minnesota Statute 299A.38, subdivision 1.
- Only ballistic panels that meet or exceed the requirements of the current National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Standard (currently 0101.06) or that appear on the [NIJ Compliant Products List](#) at the time of purchase are eligible for reimbursement.
- Eligibility for reimbursement is limited to public safety officers who either did not own ballistic panel(s) meeting the NIJ requirements before the purchase, or owned ballistic panel(s) that were at least five years old.
 - To determine the five-year requirement where applicable, DPS compares the purchase date on the invoice for the vest being replaced with the purchase date on the invoice for the new vest.

If you do not recall the date of your last vest purchase, please contact the DPS Vest Reimbursement Coordinator at 651-201-7160 or email softbodyarmor.dps@crm.mn.gov.

2.3 Soft body armor eligible for reimbursement

Items eligible for reimbursement include:

- One front and one back ballistic panel that meet or exceed current NIJ requirements
- One soft trauma plate
- Two carriers authorized for use by the peace officer's department
- One hard trauma plate

OR

- Two carriers authorized for use by the peace officer's department
- Two trauma plates
- Two ballistic panels that meet or exceed the current NIJ requirements

Items ineligible for reimbursement include:

- Wet armor conditioning
- Tactical ballistic items
- Carriers not authorized for use by the peace officer's department
- Alterations and embroidery
- Shipping costs
- Sales tax

Items should be listed and priced separately on the vendor invoice to allow DPS to determine the proper reimbursement amount.

2.4 Reimbursement amounts

The vest reimbursement amount changes every Oct. 1 based on the Consumer Price Index.

The dollar amounts listed are the maximum reimbursement amount if soft body armor was purchased on or after:

- Oct. 1, 2025 - \$1,050.64
- Oct. 1, 2024 - \$1,023.02
- Oct. 1, 2023 - \$993

2.5 Apply for reimbursement

All reimbursement requests must include:

- Completed State Vest Reimbursement Request Form
- Invoice listing the total amount paid
 - The invoice must be itemized to show each purchased item and its purchase price. Packing slips and sales orders are not acceptable substitutes for the invoice.

2.6 Review process

Reimbursement applications will be reviewed by the DPS Vest Administrator for accuracy and completeness. The vest administrator may contact you for additional information or documentation. Your application will not be considered or placed in the queue for reimbursement until it is complete.

Reimbursement order

For each application period, applications are prioritized and processed in the following order:

- Individual public safety officer applications on a waiting list from a previous application period
- Agency applications on a waiting list from a previous application period
- For the current application period:
 - Public safety officer applications at the end of the calendar quarter in which they are received
 - Agency applications at the end of the last calendar quarter, following all public safety officer applications received in the last quarter
- Subject to the reimbursement order above, applications must be reimbursed in the order received.

2.7 Waiting list

If there are more eligible applicants than available funding, the commissioner must place on a waiting list all eligible applicants who did not receive reimbursement during the application period for which the applicants applied. An applicant placed on the waiting list must be reimbursed during the next application period, subject to available funding.

3. Communications

3.1 Data privacy

DPS will use the information you provide to process your reimbursement request.

DPS will not disclose the information you provide to any third-party except in accordance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and other applicable law.

For audit purposes, DPS is required to retain applications and supporting materials for five years.

4. Questions and contact details

Contact the DPS Vest Administrator at 651-201-7160 or email softbodyarmor.dps@state.mn.us.
