The 2002/03 NT Budget includes $350,000 for more resources aimed at improving the safety of police officers on the job, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Syd Stirling told an Estimates Committee hearing this week.

Mr Stirling said the funds were part of a program established in response to a review conducted after the tragic death of Sergeant Glen Huitson in the line of duty. The review contained a number of recommendations into ways to improve officer safety.

"The Government is pleased to be able to honour the commitment to provide more resources to police to enhance their safety," Mr Stirling said.

"Our police officers are often placed in dangerous situations on the job. The Government is committed to ensuring they have the best resources possible for their personal protection.

"Previous purchases under the program include ballistic vests and vest plates; pepper spray; tactical response equipment; and a tactical response arms truck.

Planned expenditure for 2002/03 includes:

100 Shotguns $130,000
100 Vehicle Gun Racks $40,000
75 Vehicle Light Bars $120,000
5 Vehicle Safety Screens $13,500
200 Hats with Chequer Bands $14,000
Aerosol Subject Restraint Stocks $18,500

"The initiative is part of a record Police, Fire and Emergency Services (PFES) Budget of $142 million – up more than $8 million, or 6 per cent, from the 2001/02 Budget."