



Updated March 13, 2023

Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV)

Background

The Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) Family of Vehicles (FoV) is an Army-led, joint-service program designed to replace a portion of each service's light tactical wheeled vehicle fleets. The JLTV FoV consists of two variants: the four-seat Combat Tactical Vehicle (CTV) (**Figure 1**) and the two-seat Combat Support Vehicle (CSV) (**Figure 2**). The CTV is to support the General Purpose, Heavy Gun Carrier and Close Combat Weapon Carrier missions. The CSV is to support the Utility/Shelter Carrier mission. The JLTV is transportable by a range of lift assets, including rotary-wing aircraft. Its maneuverability enables activities across the spectrum of terrain, including urban areas, while providing organic and supplemental armor against direct fire and improvised explosive device threats.

Program Status

The JLTV is currently being produced by Oshkosh Defense, headquartered in Oshkosh, WI. In August 2015, the Army awarded Oshkosh a \$6.7 billion low-rate initial production (LRIP) contract to procure the initial 16,901 vehicles for the Army and Marines. In June 2019, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology) approved Army JLTV full-rate production (FRP). The Army planned for a follow-on full-rate production contract awarded to a single vendor in the fourth quarter of FY2022. It was reportedly to be a competitive five-year contract with five one-year options for about 30,000 JLTVs and 10,000 JLTV trailers. The Army began fielding LRIP JLTVs to units in April 2019, and Marine Corps units received their first LRIP JLTVs in February 2019.

Low-Rate Initial Production (LRIP) is a programmatic decision made when manufacturing development is completed and there is an ability to produce a small-quantity set of articles. It also establishes an initial production base and sets the stage for a gradual increase in production rate to allow for Full-Rate Production (FRP) upon completion of Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E).

Full-Rate Production (FRP) is a decision made that allows for government contracting for economic production quantities following stabilization of the system design and validation of the production process.

JLTV Combat Tactical Vehicle (CTV)

Figure 1. JLTV Combat Tactical Vehicle Variant (CTV)



Source: <https://asc.army.mil/web/portfolio-item/cs-css-joint-light-tactical-vehicle/>, accessed December 30, 2020.

JLTV Combat Support Vehicle (CSV)

Figure 2. JLTV Combat Support Vehicle Variant (CSV)



Source: <https://asc.army.mil/web/portfolio-item/cs-css-joint-light-tactical-vehicle/>, accessed December 30, 2020.

FY2024 Budgetary Information

Table I. FY2024 DOD JLTV Budget Request

Funding Category	Total Request (\$M)	Total Request (Qty.)
RDT&E USA	\$27.2	—
RDT&E USMC	\$2.6	—
Procurement USA	\$839.4	2,598
Procurement USAF	\$57.8	114
Procurement USN	\$24.2	—
Procurement USMC	\$232.5	396

Source: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, Program Acquisition Cost by Weapon System: United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request, March 2023, p. 3-2.

Notes: RDT&E = Research, Development, Test & Evaluation; \$M = U.S. dollars in millions; Qty. = FY2024 procurement quantities.

Foreign Military Sales

According to Oshkosh, as of January 3, 2023, the company had JLTV orders from Romania, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Brazil, and Montenegro. Other reports note that the United Kingdom, Slovenia, and Belgium have also placed orders for the JLTV.

JLTV Follow-On Contract

The Army originally planned to award a follow-on full-rate JLTV production contract to a single vendor in the fourth quarter of FY2022. Reportedly, the Army pushed back the due date for companies to bid on the JLTV follow-on contract based on requests from industry. The Army had planned to award the single vendor contract in December 2022. Because the Army owns the technical data for the JLTV, it was able to conduct a competition to determine if other vendors could build the vehicle at a lower price than Oshkosh.

JLTV Follow-On Contract Awarded to AM General

Reportedly, on February 9, 2023, the Army awarded the JLTV follow-on production contract, valued at more than \$8 billion, to AM General instead of Oshkosh. The contract reportedly included five base ordering years and five one-year optional ordering periods for both U.S. and foreign military sales. According to the provisions of the contract, AM General is to produce up to 20,682 JLTVs and up to 9,883 trailers. AM General-produced JLTVs reportedly are to have additional capabilities “such as an automated guided vehicle system, radio frequency identification, and Global Positioning System (GPS) traceability.” In addition, the vehicles are also to feature “an updated architecture, as well as enhanced corrosion protection and improved fuel efficiency.” The new JLTVs are reportedly to be produced at AM General’s Mishawaka, IN, manufacturing facility, with deliveries expected to begin in about 17 months.

Oshkosh Protests JLTV Follow-On Contract Award

Reportedly, on March 5, 2023, Oshkosh submitted a protest of the award of the JLTV follow-on contract to the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Oshkosh reportedly noted, “the government’s evaluation did not

properly review the financial, technical and manufacturing capabilities offered to select the best value and lowest risk solution to deliver the JLTV.”

Potential Issue for Congress

Future of JLTV Procurement

The Army’s current modernization strategy focuses on six modernization priorities, and the JLTV is not included in those priorities. The Army announced in January 2022 that under the 2030 Force Design Initiative, it would either redesignate existing divisions or create new divisions into five new types of divisions. The Army announced in May 2022 that it would create a new Alaska-based division, the 11th Airborne Division, by activating new units and reconfiguring two Alaska-based Infantry Brigade Combat Teams (IBCTs). With the creation of new units such as Security Forces Assistance Brigades (SFABs) and Multi-Domain Task Forces (MDTFs), development of new division types, and a new division in Alaska, it is possible the Army’s requirement for JLTVs could change appreciably.

With the Marine Corps downsizing in accordance with its Force Design 2030 initiative and the adoption of an enhanced expeditionary posture (possibly requiring fewer JLTVs), original JLTV procurement plans for both the Army and Marine Corps might no longer be accurate. Despite the Army’s intent to lower costs by awarding the follow-on production contract to AM General, slowing production rates and extended procurement timelines could act to increase costs if current JLTV requirements are no longer valid. In addition, different versions of the JLTV produced by AM General might result in additional operations and maintenance considerations and costs that can result from a mixed fleet of vehicles. Taken collectively, these issues might merit DOD and policymakers examining the future of JLTV procurement.

Marine Corps Reexamining JLTV’s Role

According to a February 24, 2023, *Inside Defense* article, “the Marine Corps is evaluating its fleet of ground vehicles and considering an addition to the JLTV family as it seeks a land platform lighter than the JLTV but more robust than the Ultra-Light Tactical Vehicle.” The article further states, “right now, as we look at our ground mobility systems, we have JLTV which is a relatively small vehicle. But for the Marine Corps, we are looking to get lighter and lighter and it [JLTV] is a fairly heavy vehicle.” The Marines are also using JLTVs in other roles, such as the Marine Air Defense Integrated Systems Increment One system, as well as the Navy/Marine Corps Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System (NMESIS), which features a modified JLTV combined with a medium-range cruise missile. In concert with force structure changes associated with the Marines’ Force Design 2030 initiative, the Marines’ reexamination of the JLTV’s role could potentially change the overall JLTV requirement. Given potential programmatic changes if the Marines change their JLTV requirement, policymakers might decide to review the Marines’ intentions regarding the JLTV.

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