



Updated July 23, 2024

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

In August 2015, the Army awarded Oshkosh Defense 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.

FY2025 Budgetary Information

Table I. FY2025 DOD JLTV Budget Request

| Funding Category | Total Request (\$M) | Total Request (Qty.) |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| RDT&E USA | \$27 | — |
| RDT&E USMC | \$10.7 | — |
| Procurement USA | \$680.8 | 1,808 |
| Procurement USAF | \$69.5 | 127 |
| Procurement USN | \$50.9 | — |
| Procurement USMC | \$340.5 | 674 |

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 2025 Budget Request*, March 2024, p. 3-2.

Notes: RDT&E = Research, Development, Test & Evaluation; \$M = U.S. dollars in millions; Qty. = FY2025 procurement quantities.

Foreign Military Sales

According to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), which coordinates foreign military sales, there are seven foreign JLTV customers, including the United Kingdom, Israel, Romania, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and Montenegro.

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.”

Delivery of AM General’s First JLTVs Delayed

Reportedly, AM General’s initial delivery of JLTVs to the Army has been delayed by six months due to challenges starting up a new production line. It was further noted that “in addition to normal start of production headwinds, the transition from an incumbent vendor has presented unique challenges for AM General related to sourcing directed parts, intellectual property, tooling, and part qualification.” Despite the six-month delay, a program spokesman reportedly stated that “the JLTV program is fully prepared to execute the FY2025 budget position and will continue to meet all its program, fielding, and integration requirements while delivering an estimated \$1 billion in savings over the life of the contract.”

Potential Issue for Congress

2024 Army Force Structure Transformation and JLTV Procurement

On February 27, 2024, the Army announced “changes to its force structure that will modernize and continue to transform the service to better face future threats.” According to the Army, it plans to create a number of new units, enhance existing units, and reduced force structure designed primarily used to support counterinsurgency operations. In each case, tactical units are likely comprised, in part, by a number of JLTV variants. As such, the Army’s significant force structure changes also could result in significant changes to the Army’s overall JLTV requirements. Because of the scope of the Army’s proposed force structure changes, Congress might decide to examine how the Army’s plans affect the JLTV program in terms of quantities, costs, and production timelines.

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. The Marines are also creating a number of new units, such as Marine Littoral Regiments (MLRs), which likely have unique JLTV requirements given their mission. In concert with force structure changes associated with the Marines’ Force Design initiative, the Marines’ reexamination of the JLTV’s role could change the overall JLTV requirement. Given potential programmatic changes if the Marines change their JLTV requirement, policymakers might decide to review the Marines’ future intentions regarding the JLTV.

Andrew Feickert, Specialist in Military Ground Forces

Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.