



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING OF APRIL 9, 2015

FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE A DIGITAL IN CAR AND BODY CAMERA VIDEO SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,501.31; AND AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 STATE SUPPLEMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES FUND (SLESF) BUDGET TO AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES OF \$100,501.31 FROM THE UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. Accept the quote from Watch Guard Digital Video Systems in the amount of \$100,501.31 to purchase a dual video system for police vehicles and body cameras;
2. Authorize the Police Department to utilize the Supplemental Law Enforcement State Funds (SLESF) for the purchase and amend the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 SLESF fund budget to increase expenditures by \$100,501.31.

**BACKGROUND:** The California Legislature passed the "State Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund" (SLESF) Bill. This Bill is also known as the "Citizens Option for Public Safety" (COPS). Funds from the grant are to be exclusively used for supporting front line law enforcement and cannot be used to supplant existing funding. Funds from this Program must be used for personnel and/or equipment.

**DISCUSSION:** To support our front line law enforcement efforts, the Police Department intends to use \$100,501.31 of the SLESF grant funds to purchase a digital in-car and body camera system. Each marked police vehicle and sworn officer will be equipped with a high resolution digital camera system. The Police Department has not had access to an in-car video system in over eight years. The cost to update and replace the existing system at the time was far too expensive. As technology has improved, capability has increased.

There is extreme value in the use of audio and video images. It allows management to respond to any and all concerns more efficiently and effectively; identify training opportunities and collect additional evidence for criminal cases. As a risk management tool, video data can assist in claims against the City while capturing information in real time as they unfold. While it has been proven that in-car and body worn cameras may not capture all relative information to a particular incident, it does provide some insight into a particular set of events. Incidents unfold at an extreme rapid pace, so audio and digital images provide an additional investigative tool.

For the past eight months, the Police Department has been researching supply vendors from various law enforcement agencies around the state. Members of the Department formed a work group committee to attend vendor demonstrations, review literature and policies, participate in online webinars, and interview other Police Department personnel in hopes of finding the right piece of equipment for the Department. Staff has coordinated with the District Attorney's Office to ensure compliance with evidence storage requirements in criminal cases. Staff also consulted with the City Attorney's Office for storage requirements on civil claims against the City to ensure the

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PURCHASE A DIGITAL IN CAR AND BODY CAMERA VIDEO SYSTEM IN

City meets the requirements under the California Public Records Act of 2004.

Since the Police Department does not own a functioning in-car camera system, the goal is to find a system that could integrate both body worn cameras (BWC's) and in-car cameras as one unit. The biggest financial impact to developing an all inclusive system was the operation of a self-contained stand-alone data storage system that would meet the retention requirements for evidence and civil obligations.

In contacting several vendors, very few of them were able to meet the City's system needs. Several vendors supplied only BWC equipment that are not capable of interfacing with an in-car system. Some of these vendors utilized a cloud storage capacity that came with monthly fees. By choosing this path of operation, the Police Department would essentially require the purchase of two separate systems.

The Police Department requested quotes from vendors based on specific need requirements, and the received quotes from the following vendors with the associated costs:

Watchguard Digital Systems	\$100,501.31
L3 Mobile-Vision, Inc.	\$103,025.00
Data 911	\$ 94,583.27

Based on the information obtained during the evaluation process, the Police Department recommends accepting the attached quote from Watchguard Digital Systems in the amount of \$100,501.31 to purchase a dual video system for police vehicles and body cameras.

In following the guidelines in the City's Administrative Policy III-4, our research has determined that Watchguard provides the best value for future maintenance, repair, and services for the use of the supplies purchased. We also discovered in our evaluation of equipment that Watchguard was highly recommended for service and technical data by other law enforcement agencies that currently use their product.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The budget amendment will have no impact on the General Fund. Sufficient funds are available in the Unassigned SLESF Fund Balance. The Police Department started Fiscal Year 2014/2015 with a beginning balance of \$119,531.42. Of this balance, \$99,642.62 was carryover from Fiscal Year 2013/2014 that needs to be expended or forfeited. The Police Department received an additional \$100,000 for Fiscal Year 2014/2015. If there is any additional unforeseen expenditure that arises during the implementation process, the SLESF funds will continue to be utilized to complete the project. SLESF expenses for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 totaled \$19,886.80.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Watch Guard Digital Video Systems Quote
2. Budget Amendment

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Reviewed and Forwarded  
By City Manager 