



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: JUNE 16, 2020

ITEM NUMBER: CC-9

SUBJECT: MOBILE VIDEO SYSTEM (MVS) REPLACEMENT AND PURCHASE

DATE: MAY 29, 2020

FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESENTATION BY: JOYCE LAPOINTE, LIEUTENANT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: JOYCE LAPOINTE (714) 754-5663

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends City Council:

1. Authorize the purchase of a mobile video system (MVS) from WatchGuard Video, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$997,280.63, to replace the Police Department's current system.
2. Authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to execute an agreement with WatchGuard Video, Inc., in a form approved by the City Attorney.
3. Authorize a budget adjustment appropriating \$113,760.63 from the unassigned fund balance in the Asset Forfeiture Fund for the specified purposes below.

BACKGROUND:

For decades, video evidence has been considered an excellent source of providing an unbiased witness to a particular event and is now expected by the public to verify the accuracy of events during police contacts. In-car video recording systems have been used by the Costa Mesa Police Department since 1998.

In 1998, the City's Citizen Advisory Committee recommended the purchase and installation of "vehicle video monitoring systems," (in-car video) utilizing three separate grants. As a result, the City purchased and installed several in-car video recording systems in the Police Department's vehicle fleet.

By July 2003, the technology, which utilized VHS tapes as a means of video storage, became obsolete and the systems themselves were functioning intermittently. These now

archaic systems were decommissioned and removed from all Police Department vehicles.

In the FY 06-07 budget, the City Council approved funds in the amount of \$462,248.00 for the purchase of a new Police Department in-car video recording system. This decision was made to provide several operation-critical benefits, such as enhance officer safety, accountability and integrity; provide an added layer of protection to the community; promote a positive image of the Department; serve as a training tool; reduce the likelihood of a confrontation by those who are aware they are being recorded; and decrease the likelihood of costly litigation.

Some additional operation-critical benefits of an in-car video system are:

- Memorialize police vehicle transports of citizens
- Resolve probable cause related questions
- Improve conviction rates
- Reduce time in court proceedings and litigation
- Provide overall clarity to any recorded event

As technology has evolved, so has the mobile video system (MVS). Mobile video systems now include an integrated in-car and body worn cameras system with an evidence management system. This system provides more camera angles that can be synchronized to allow the viewer to have a better perspective of the totality of the event from beginning to end. The cameras provide superior image and audio quality that is immediately accessible and managed on a Cloud-Share Evidence Management System. The Evidence Management System is securely stored in the cloud using Microsoft Azure Government Criminal Justice Information System Complaint Data Centers.

In February 2013, City Council approved funds in the amount of \$321,203.87 to upgrade the Police Department's L3 Communications in-car video system. However, the system has now reached its "end of life" for support and parts. The equipment is outdated and frequently in need of repair, which is costly and oftentimes results in police vehicles on patrol without the benefit of a video system.

Staff is requesting that City Council authorize the purchase of a replacement MVS from WatchGuard Video, Inc. The WatchGuard Video, Inc. integrated in-car and body worn camera will allow officers to have the security of capturing events that occur away from the police vehicle. It will also consolidate two pieces of equipment (Digital Audio Recorder & In-Car Mic Remote).

ANALYSIS:

On February 19, 2020, the City issued Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 20-07 for a Mobile Video System (Attachment 1). As required by the City of Costa Mesa Municipal Code, the RFP was published in the Daily Pilot Newspaper and posted on the City's website.

In response to RFP No. 20-07, seven vendors submitted proposals:

- Axon Enterprise, Inc
- Coban Technologies, Inc.
- CDW-G
- Pileum Corporation
- WatchGuard Video, Inc.
- Commline Inc.
- Preferred Communications

Of the seven proposals received, two were deemed non-responsive. The remaining five proposals were evaluated based on the company’s ability to respond and satisfactorily defining their ability to meet the following criteria:

- Method and Approach
- Qualifications and Experience
- Key Personnel
- Cost Proposal - Completed by Finance

After a thorough review and analysis of each proposal, an evaluation team comprised of City staff from the Police Department and Information Technology Department recommended that the top two vendors, Coban Technologies, Inc. and WatchGuard Video, Inc. continue into the next phase of the evaluation, demonstration and equipment testing.

Staff contacted Coban Technologies, Inc. (“Coban”) and WatchGuard Video, Inc. (“Watchguard”) in order to have both proposers install their mobile video systems in a Police Department vehicle for testing and evaluation. Unfortunately, Coban was disqualified for two reasons. The first was due to the project manager failing to respond to the test and evaluation installation deadlines. The second, when given the opportunity to participate even though it was past the deadline, Coban was still unable to respond to meet the installation date.

During the testing phase, WatchGuard installed its in-car video (ICV) solution into a Police Department vehicle, and installed the evidence video management and body worn camera (BWC) transfer/charging station in the Patrol Services report writing room. WatchGuard personnel provided an on-site demo and training to ensure officers received the best experience testing the equipment. The installation occurred quickly without issue. The ICV and BWC were tested for approximately two weeks.

As part of the testing process, officers utilizing the equipment were asked to complete rating sheets to evaluate the effectiveness of each of the technologies. Each ranking on a specific category was given a numerical score from 1 (poor) to 5 (outstanding). After compiling all of the rating results, a cumulative total was given to each category based on the average of all responses received. Then, all categories were added and averaged to obtain one rating result. The following chart outlines the results:

Category	WatchGuard ICV	WatchGuard BWC
Ease of Use	3.5	4.5

Video Quality	4.4	4.6
Audio Quality	4.3	4.5
System Indicators	4.0	3.5
Video Tagging	3.8	3.8
Mounting Options	3.4	4.2
Durability	4.5	4.5
Interference	4.3	4.1
Camera Activation	3.6	3.5
Instant Video Playback	3.0	N/A
Battery Life (BWC)	N/A	3.0
Average:	3.9	4.0

WatchGuard's proposal is included as Attachment 2.

Based on staff's evaluation, staff recommends that the City Council authorize the purchase of a replacement MVS from WatchGuard.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

1. City Council could decide not to authorize the purchase of the WatchGuard Mobile Video System; however, the current system is at end of life and the Department's ability to record and document contacts, events, and collect audio/video evidence is compromised. This delay could open the City to frivolous lawsuits because of the Police Department's inability to acquire, maintain, and manage audio/video evidence.
2. The City Council could request another assessment of mobile video systems; however, staff believes the WatchGuard Mobile Video System provides a complete system with the latest technology available and the system was recommended by both the Newport Beach and Tustin Police Departments, which utilize the system.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The total purchase and maintenance of the WatchGuard Mobile Video System is \$997,280. Funds totaling \$883,520 are included in the FY 2019/20 budget. Staff is requesting City Council approval to appropriate the remaining amount of \$113,760 from the Asset Forfeiture unassigned fund balance.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed this report and approved it as to form.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS & PRIORITIES:

This item supports City Council Goal 1 - Keep our Community Safe and Goal 6 – Good Government and Community Engagement.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends City Council

1. Authorize the purchase of a mobile video system (MVS) from WatchGuard Video, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$997,280.63, to replace the Police Department's current system.
2. Authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to execute an agreement with WatchGuard Video, Inc., in a form approved by the City Attorney.
3. Authorize a budget adjustment appropriating \$113,760.63 from the unassigned fund balance in the Asset Forfeiture Fund for the specified purposes.

JOYCE LAPOINTE

Lieutenant

BRYAN F. GLASS

Chief of Police

CAROL MOLINA

Acting Finance Director

KIMBERLY HALL BARLOW

City Attorney

ATTACHMENTS:

1
2

[Request for Proposal No. 20-07](#)

[WatchGuard Mobile Video System Cost Proposal](#)