

Meeting Date: 10/07/2019

Recommended Mark McCrory, Police Chief

by:

Prepared by: Angela Apodaca, Management Analyst

Finance Celina Morris

Director

Review:

City Attorney Brett Wallace

Review:

Approved by: Larry Rains

Date 10/02/2019

Submitted:

Type of Ordinance

Action

Requested:

**SUBJECT:**

The Casa Grande Police Department requests authorization to enter into contracts, issue purchase orders, and install Watch Guard Digital In Car Video Cameras in the amount of \$89,105.28.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Casa Grande Police Department requests the Mayor and City Council adopt an ordinance for the purchase of 10 in-car video camera systems and one dedicated server to store video from these systems. One camera system was installed as a test unit and we will purchase this unit in addition to 9 additional camera systems. The total amount for which spending authority is being requested under this action is \$89,105.28, which includes a 5.6% use tax.

**DISCUSSION:**

Cameras will increase the safety of our officers, provide better evidence to strengthen the prosecution of cases presented, provide video evidence to better support citizen complaints or provide evidence to protect officers from false allegations.

All of the benefits of obtaining this system add to the overall quality of life for both employees and our community members, while marketing our department as a professional, progressive, and transparent organization.

WatchGuard Digital In-Car Video Camera system provides two cameras per vehicle. The forward facing camera provides a high definition panoramic view. A rear facing camera allows an officer to monitor their arrestee's actions while in transport. The rear facing camera provides for better safety of both the transporting officer and the detainee.

Officers will be able to view if the detained individual is attempting to escape, destroying equipment, hiding contraband, or in medical distress.

WatchGuard offers multiple-resolution recording technology which will allow the 4RE in car system to record in both HD and standard resolution simultaneously. Important incidents are automatically saved in HD, and routine events are automatically saved in SD. The user tags and categorizes video after each event. This "tag" and categorization determines the amount of time the video is kept and an option for resolution. This greatly assists our agency with assuring we are within the laws pertaining to retention of videos.

When the department was discussing purchasing body-worn cameras that would in effect replace the need for in-car camera systems, it was decided to save funding and not order additional in-car cameras. As we moved towards obtaining body-worn cameras, further research showed the costs associated with these systems made purchasing them impossible and impractical. Storage costs, difficulty of redaction, the amount of video captured on basic calls for service, and the possibility of needing an additional FTE to manage public requests pushed us to look for other more financially prudent and time saving options.

During this time of researching for other options, we kept our previous in-car camera systems in operation but elected not to purchase new ones until we decided on a course of action. These camera systems were reused and moved from older vehicles to newer vehicles and video evidence was maintained on the old system's server. This old system required the assistance of IT to pull video and others to complete any redactions that were needed. The new system will allow the police department to do all of this in-house and free up other departments from assisting us.

Due to their aging out and no longer being able to be serviced, the department currently does not have any in-car video camera systems in use, other than a demo WatchGuard camera.

This request is to provide for the procurement of in-car video camera equipment and a dedicated server for video storage. This server will be housed at the public safety building and as a result will greatly decrease the time involved in downloading videos.

Each in-car camera and the server come with a 5 year warranty. This warranty covers repairs, maintenance, and parts for all the purchased equipment. This warranty allows us

to be fiscally responsible while operating these systems. As previously stated, the new server will streamline our operations and allow for us to manage and retrieve video evidence without IT assistance. This will allow our department to provide video evidence or public requests faster and more efficiently; thus, allowing IT to dedicate resources to other city projects.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

The funds for this request were rolled over from an approved three-year Capital Improvement Project beginning in FY2019. FY19's funding is included in Fiscal Year's 2020 Budget. The monies requested for this purchase come from the rolled over FY2019 budget.

This funding is a result of using Development Impact Fee Funds prior to 2012, in the amount of \$90,000. It is available in account code 419-62-601-100-8401-19099.

#### ALTERNATIVES:

Deny the request to purchase this new in-car camera system.

Modify the request to purchase the new system.

Delay the purchase of this new system.