

# Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: MARCH 21, 2005

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF A  
DIGITAL VIDEO DOWNLINK SYSTEM FOR THE POLICE HELICOPTER

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

Authorize the purchase of a digital downlink system from Broadcast Microwave Services, Incorporated (BMSI) for the police helicopter in the amount of \$91,611.97, without competitive bidding pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(H), contracts with other governmental entities or their contractors.

## BACKGROUND

On September 20, 2004, the City Council recognized \$1,391,084 from several Homeland Security Grant Programs. Of those funds, \$371,000 were from the FY 2003, Part II, Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program and appropriated into the police department's FY 2005 operating budget, account #230-401200, Project 91090. The purpose of the grant program was to enhance local law enforcement's capabilities in preventing and responding to chemical, radiological, nuclear, and biological terrorist attacks. The grant earmarked funds for the purchase of a Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR)/Video Downlink system for the police helicopter.

The FLIR/Video Downlink systems are two separate systems that are needed to see and televise images from the police helicopter during both the day and night. The purchase of the FLIR system was approved by the City Council on January 24, 2005.

The video downlink system is the component that transmits the FLIR image to a secure ground based receiver site where ground personnel evaluate and manage critical events. This authorization is sought for the remaining video downlink system.

BMSI is a civilian contractor with a current contract with the Glendale Police Department for a similar digital downlink system. This is significant because Glendale is a mutual aid partner in the Area C coalition for Los Angeles County law enforcement and response to a

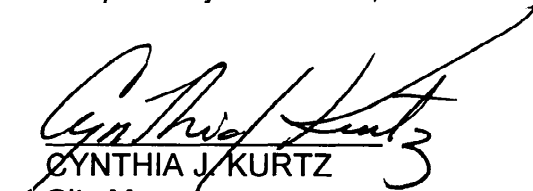
terrorist attack will very likely require Mutual Aid assistance. In addition, BMSI has multiple contracts with other law enforcement agencies throughout the country as well as the armed forces.

The purchase of this new digital technology will provide a higher level of service and improve command and control issues during critical incidents. The secure picture to be seen from the police helicopter, both day and night, seven days a week is more in line with today's technology and demands, and suitable for the newly acquired FLIR thermal imaging camera.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Sufficient funds exist within the FY 2005 police-operating budget from funds obtained from the FY 2003, Part II, UASI Grant appropriations.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
CYNTHIA J. KURTZ  
City Manager


Prepared by:

  
ROBERT MULHALL, Lieutenant  
Air Operations Section

Approved:

  
BERNARD K. MELEKIAN  
Chief of Police

Reviewed by:

  
JAY M. GOLDSTONE  
Director of Finance