

Agenda Report

April 20, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Police Department

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE PURCHASE ORDER CONTRACT WITH WESCAM-USA FOR PURCHASE OF ONE MX-10 EO/IR CAMERA SYSTEM FOR A TOTAL OF \$420,000

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060 (c)(2), 15060 (c)(3), and 15378, as the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.
2. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a Purchase Order Contract with Wescam-USA in the amount not to exceed \$420,000. Competitive bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter section 1002(H), "Contracts with other governmental entities or their contractors for labor, material, supplies or services."; and
3. Grant the proposed Purchase Order Contract an exemption from the Competitive Selection process pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code Section 4.08.049(B), "Contracts for which the City's best interests are served."

BACKGROUND:

The Pasadena Police Air Operations Section is a multi-disciplined aviation operation with the primary role of providing support to first responders. Additional functions include narcotic interdiction, search and rescue, fire operations, gang enforcement, and other inter-departmental operations. The unit operates five patrol helicopters, seven days a week, providing a much needed safety barrier for our ground officers and other first responders. Aside from Pasadena, the unit provides aerial responses to the Foothill Air Support Team (F.A.S.T.) and our two sister cities, Glendale and Burbank. This accounts for a coverage area of approximately 170 square miles between the 12

partner agencies. In addition, flight crews are frequently tasked with assisting other county, state and federal agencies in support of homeland security missions, infrastructure inspections, and critical incident planning.

Currently, Pasadena patrol helicopters are equipped with the FLIR 8000/8500 analog IR camera system, purchased or acquired since the early 2000's. On average, the division is spending \$40,000 in annual maintenance with components for cameras that often fail due to age, corrosion, and long-term use. The low definition FLIR cameras have become antiquated with the arrival of new high definition, fully digital camera systems. With the latest advancements in technology, the IR cameras currently on the market perform with better Hi-Def imagery and zoom capability. This offers flight crews much greater detail and increases stand-off ranges, which in turn decreases the helicopter's noise signature.

In the field of Airborne Law Enforcement, the most effective piece of equipment on the helicopter is the gyro-stabilized, EO/IR (Electro Optical/Infra-Red) camera system. It allows the crew to safely respond to areas that are currently inaccessible in night or low-light conditions and improves their aerial observation capabilities. This ultimately gives law enforcement the advantage when searching for outstanding suspects, immensely adding to the safety of officers on the ground. The use of IR cameras has eliminated hours and hours of resources since flight crews are able to locate suspects faster and more efficiently during perimeter searches and large containments. Recently, Pasadena flight crews were able to conduct field tests and evaluate both the Wescam MX-10 and FLIR 380HDc camera systems.

Pasadena Police Air Operations Section reached out to the City of Austin, Texas which undertook a bid process in June 2019 for the MX-10 camera. The equipment was purchased via a low bid award and the vendor has agreed to extend the same pricing to the City.

As such, staff recommends purchasing the camera system utilizing Austin Police Department's (Air Enforcement Unit) bidding process. It is in the City's best interest as it reduces the amount of time and resources necessary to take delivery of new equipment. From a response standpoint, the MX-10 camera system will improve situational awareness, while providing better interoperability and safety amongst first responders. From a proactive standpoint, the MX-10 camera will be utilized to provide security and proactively secure infrastructure sites more effectively and efficiently. Additionally, as the new equipment will allow for flying at greater altitudes, noise related complaints are likely to be reduced. There are no vendors located in Pasadena that provide this equipment for airborne law enforcement.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

By providing the Police Air Operations Section with upgraded equipment and technology to perform its function, the proposed purchase furthers the City Council's strategic planning goal of ensuring public safety.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The action proposed herein is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060 (c)(2), 15060 (c)(3), and 15378. CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c) (2) states that an activity is not subject to CEQA if "The activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment". For the same reason, the proposed activity is not a CEQA "Project" as defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 and is, therefore, also not subject to CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c)(3).

FISCAL IMPACT:


The cost of this action is \$420,000. Funding for this action will be addressed by the utilization of savings within the Department's current year operating budget. It is anticipated that all funds will be spent during the current fiscal year with no indirect or support cost requirements.

Respectfully submitted,



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Chief of Police

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Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager