BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 23, 2020

KPPCSD: PURCHASE AGREEMENT – MOBILE PATROL CAR COMPUTERS (MDCs)

BACKGROUND

For the last several decades, police officers throughout the country have utilized mobile data computers (MDCs) to facilitate critical elements of their duties such as entering missing persons or stolen vehicles into the statewide database. Officers use MDCs at the scene of crimes to quickly enter critical and time-sensitive information. MDCs are also used to capture routine patrol data that is later used to document patrol activity. This routine information is entered through the MDC so that valuable radio traffic time is not utilized; providing routine information over the radio is an issue that can compromise officer safety in both Kensington and Albany.

When the District switched from Richmond to Albany for dispatch services, that switchover necessitated a change in MDCs as well. At that time, the District opted to purchase Albany's used patrol car computers. These used computers from Albany were a sensible way to facilitate using the dispatching software Albany utilizes without having to purchase new hardware at the same time as the dispatch contract change. Unfortunately, the computers have failed several times over and the cost for repairs would be substantial. Currently all the computers purchased from Albany are out of commission, no patrol cars have a functioning MDC which significantly compromises the effectiveness of the Police Department.

DISCUSSION

In reviewing potential solutions for replacing the MDCs, the following criteria was used:

* The MDC must be compatible with RIMS – the dispatch software used by Albany
* The MDC must have data transmittal capability in our hilly neighborhoods
* The MDC must be from a reputable company who delivers tried and tested products that meet or exceed industry standards of function and durability

Albany currently uses the DataLux MDC. This is the same product used by the District now, just an older model. The newer DataLux MDC meets or exceeds our criteria; however, the product requires an additional external modem to communicate. To replace our current MDCs would require both the computer and the modems; the computers cost $29,211 and the modems are $9,360.57 for a total cost of $38,571.57 not including installation.

In researching other local agencies, another viable option was found. The Sheriff's Office, Richmond and San Pablo all use the GeTac MDC. The Sheriff's Office has used the GeTac at patrol stations throughout the county for the last five years with no notable issues in functionality or durability. The GeTac has a three-year warranty and the product has performed well for the Sheriff's Office and exceeded performance expectations. The Sheriff's Office loaned the District a GeTac MDC for testing and we have found it to function properly in our environment. The GeTac MDC supports RIMS and does not need an external modem to communicate.

The GeTac meets or exceeds our criteria and is a significant cost savings as compared to the current DataLux MDC. Staff obtained a purchase quote for GeTacs for a cost of $25,157.55 which includes a five-year warranty and around the clock hardware support. There is an additional installation cost of $2,819.74, making the total requested for this purchase $27,977.29.

There will be an ongoing monthly cost for the air cards that communicate the information from Dispatch to the MDCs. That cost is $189.95 per month and will be covered by existing budget funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Take public comment and decide by roll call vote if the Board wishes to approve the purchase agreement as presented.

If the Board approves, the motion should authorize the Interim Police Chief to execute the purchase agreements subject to the review and approval of the General Counsel.

ATTACHMENTS

Purchase agreement with DuraTech USA for GeTac Computers
Purchase agreement with LEHR/Pursuit North for installation
Quotes from DataLux & Cradlepoint Modems (as exemplars only)

SUBMITTED BY: Steve Simpkins, Interim Chief of Police