



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Sean Thuilliez, Chief of Police
DATE: February 16, 2021
SUBJECT: Approval to Replace/Update ALPR Technology

Background and Analysis:

Automated license plate reader (ALPR) technology provides law enforcement with the ability to capture and store digital license plate data and then compare that data almost instantly with stolen vehicle and other law enforcement databases. The data may also be used to aid in criminal investigations.

In 2012, the Beaumont Police Department had two patrol vehicles equipped with an ALPR system made by Motorola. These ALPR systems purchased in 2012 are outdated and no longer operable.

The ALPR system component being requested is a fixed camera mounted on a patrol unit and when paired with computer software, captures and records a vehicle's license plate information. These systems typically photograph an image of a license plate and use optical character recognition (OCR) software to convert the image into the alphanumeric characters of the license plate. This data is then compared to data held in other databases. The ALPR system captures other information as well, including the geographic location of a license plate and the time and date that the license plate was scanned. The ALPR system can also provide a contextual photo of the car itself as well as other information about the vehicle to include make and model, distinguishing features and state of registration.

Vigilant Solutions, owned by Motorola, is the manufacturer of the ALPR system that the City previously purchased. Vigilant Solutions will remove the outdated and nonfunctioning ALPR systems and install two new ALPR systems on two patrol vehicles. The new system can capture license plates on vehicles traveling at faster speeds, and the newer technology can read temporary license plates as well as personalized license plates with different color backgrounds.

All data and images gathered by the ALPR are for the official use of the Beaumont Police Department. Because such data may contain confidential information, it is not open to public review. All data is closely safeguarded and protected by both procedural and technological means. Members approved to access ALPR data will do so for legitimate law enforcement purposes only, such as when the data relates to a specific criminal investigation or department-related civil or administrative action. ALPR system audits will be conducted on a regular basis.

Fiscal Impact:

The total cost for the removal and installation of two updated ALPR systems is \$30,872.15. It will be funded from SLESA account 220-0000-8040. Annual maintenance and support fees of approximately \$4,350 will be paid from general fund account 100-1230-7071-6040.

Recommended Action:

Approve the purchase of updated ALPR technology for the Police Department from SLESA funding,
Approve annual maintenance and support fees to be paid from the general fund,
and
Authorize the City Manager to sign the Vigilant Enterprise Service Agreement.

Attachments:

- A. Quote
- B. Annual Maintenance Fees
- C. Service Agreement