



Folsom City Council Staff Report

MEETING DATE:	2/28/2023
AGENDA SECTION:	Consent Calendar
SUBJECT:	Resolution No. 10995 - A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with Flock Safety for Traffic/Automated License Plate Reader Cameras
FROM:	Police Department

RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION

Staff recommends that the City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 10995 - A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with Flock Safety for Traffic/Automated License Plate Reader Cameras.

BACKGROUND / ISSUE

The City of Folsom strives to leverage technology in innovative ways to combat crime. Automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras can quickly locate vehicles that are reported stolen or when the vehicle is associated with a missing person or reported crime. This system can also monitor locations in real time for collision and crime response.

The City currently has 20 Vigilant cameras, which capture traffic entering and leaving the City. The system has proven instrumental in alerting us to in-progress crimes and is an investigative tool used after a report of a crime.

POLICY / RULE

Section 2.36.080 of the Folsom Municipal Code requires that contracts above \$70,952 be awarded by the City Council.

Flock Safety requires local government approval to retain captured data longer than 30 days.

The 120-day retention will prevent the expiration of captured data during the time when financial crimes such as credit card fraud or identity theft are committed and when they are reported to the police.

ANALYSIS

The area south of highway 50 is an area under continuous development. Construction thefts have occurred, and the presence of ALPR systems is a deterrent to those who would enter the City to steal. We have developed a system of ALPR cameras in the area north of Highway 50 in the past five years, and it has proven to be a valuable tool in addressing crime.

Staff has evaluated the efficacy of our existing system, which cost approximately \$27,000 per intersection (consisting of 3-4 cameras and a communications module.) This system has an expected service life of 8 years, which means the cost of the Flock lease at \$2,500 per camera per year is equivalent to purchasing camera systems, with the added benefit that cameras that break are replaced by Flock as part of the lease agreement. The proposal will add 12 Flock cameras to the area South of Highway 50.

Flock Safety offers a proprietary system that captures license plates better than other systems. Further, this system can interface with our in-car camera vendor's system, and the Flock system is in use in Elk Grove, Lincoln, Roseville, and Placer County. It is also used in numerous HOAs and private businesses in the region. Using the same system allows for interoperability and a more extensive reach in searching for wanted vehicles.

Images captured by the Flock system are deleted by default in 30 days. They can be held longer with the approval of the local governing body. The Vigilant system has no restriction on data retention.

Our investigative staff have routinely used data older than 30 days to solve crimes. Particularly financial crimes that are not discovered for several weeks after they are committed. Staff recommends adopting a 120-day retention policy on Flock images to balance privacy interests with the need to retain data for criminal investigations.

Flock's standard contract is a two-year term. The total price, including installation and data processing and storage is \$76,400, with an ongoing cost of \$36,100 in years thereafter.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Folsom received \$202,061 as the allocation for the 2021-22 Citizens' Option for Public Safety (COPS) funds. These funds each year can only be used for front-line law enforcement and the funds are non-supplanting. The Police Department chose to allocate these funds to supplies and technology. There are sufficient COPS funds currently available for this purchase which was not included in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget.

ATTACHMENT

Resolution No. 10995 - A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with Flock Safety for Traffic/Automated License Plate Reader Cameras

Submitted,

Richard Hillman, Chief of Police

RESOLUTION NO. 10995

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH FLOCK SAFETY FOR TRAFFIC/AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER CAMERAS

WHEREAS, the City has elected to purchase camera systems capable of monitoring traffic and reading license plates of vehicles; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds are currently available in the allocation received from the Citizens' Option for Public Safety (COPS) fund in Fiscal Year 2021-22 for this contract; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to balance privacy interests with the ability of the Police Department to use the information gathered to investigate crimes, and has determined that retaining records for no more than 120 days is appropriate for Flock camera systems; and

WHEREAS, this purchase is through Flock Safety, the provider of Flock Camera systems; and

WHEREAS, the agreement will be in a format acceptable to the City Attorney.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Folsom hereby authorizes:

- (1) the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with Flock Safety for traffic/license plate reader camera services in the amount of \$76,400, and to renew after the two-year term without further Council action; and
- (2) The retention of captured data from the Flock system for 120 days from the capture date.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of February 2023, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers(s)
NOES:	Councilmembers(s)
ABSENT:	Councilmembers(s)
ABSTAIN:	Councilmembers(s)

Rosario Rodriguez, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK