



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Extension and enhancement to Police Department Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology agreement with FLOCK Safety

CEQA: Not a Project

Recommendation: Authorize the Chief of Police to sign the agreement with Flock Safety

Prepared by: Alexander K. Gammelgard, Chief of Police

Council Meeting Date: 07/25/2023

Date Prepared: 07/11/2023

Agenda: Consent

Background Information:

In September of 2021 the Police Department, after City Council approval, entered into an agreement with FLOCK Safety for the deployment of 18 fixed point Automated License Plate Readers that were placed at strategic “ingress locations” throughout the City. The devices became active in January of 2022.

These locations were prioritized by police staff based upon known avenues of frequent use. These locations provide excellent effectiveness in capturing ALPR data from a public right of way. The Flock Raven devices utilize technology to deduce license plate data, which is then compared with state/national law enforcement Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) databases to determine if a vehicle is stolen, associated to a missing person, or wanted as evidence in a serious felony investigation. If a match is made, the FLOCK Safety system immediately provides a mobile notification alert to the officer’s in-car computer or handheld device with the vehicle information and last captured ALPR location. The system captures still images only and no streaming video. Local plates of interest can also be loaded into the system, for example, a vehicle suspected of involvement in a hit and run. The data is retained for 30 days, after which time it is deleted.

ALPR systems have proven themselves time and time again in their effectiveness to solve and deter crime. Below are a few datapoints from the past 18 months that demonstrate their effectiveness here in Grass Valley:

- 66 stolen vehicle recoveries, of which 50% were from out of the area
- 46 identified vehicles were associated with felony criminal activity such as domestic violence, false imprisonment, and criminal threats. Other criminal cases solved with ALPR fixed point readers in Grass Valley include:
 - 5 incidents related to robberies

- 1 related to an attempted homicide case
- 3 related to homicide cases
- An interstate kidnapping suspect's vehicle was identified based on ALPR reads, and data was used in coordination with the FBI for the suspects apprehension and travel patterns

These cases are just a portion of the investigative use this technology provides.

Recently, FLOCK Safety announced an increase in their pricing model. Existing cameras were contracted at a rate of \$2,500 per device, per year. The new pricing model, beginning this month, was slated to raise prices to \$3,000 per device, per year. However, FLOCK Safety offered the ability to renew existing contracts and/or new devices, at a price of \$2,500 for any newly renewed contract terms, up to five years.

As a result, staff determined that enhancing coverage and renewing our FLOCK Safety contract would further the crime reduction and detection mission of the Police Department and make fiscal sense. The Police Department has identified 7 additional locations which are current "holes in coverage" for ALPR readers. These 7 devices are to be contracted at the special pricing of \$2,500 per device. While adding these devices, the full contract will be renewed for a 5-year term, with all 25 cameras at the better pricing.

The updated contract is attached for review. By executing this agreement, it preserves the yearly cost of \$2,500 per device for all new and existing devices for the duration of the new contract. This reduced pricing would save \$12,500 per year over the term of the contract.

Council Goals/Objectives: The execution of this action attempts to achieve Strategic Goal #1 - Exceptional Public Safety

Fiscal Impact: Funding is allocated and appropriated in the FY23/24 Police Department Budget for the full contract amount.

Funds Available: Yes

Account #: 100-201

Reviewed by: Tim Kiser, City Manager