

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: March 24, 2026

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Terence Acquah, Assistant Village Manager

Topic: Purchase of Panasonic Toughbook Laptops

PURPOSE

The Village of Homewood periodically replaces equipment that has reached the end of its useful life. On an annual basis, staff evaluates existing equipment and develops a replacement plan based on both technological advancements and the overall physical condition of the equipment. Through the budget process, one of the identified priorities was the replacement of 22 Panasonic Toughbooks which are currently used in Police Department patrol units. These will be replaced with updated Panasonic Toughbook 55 models.

Staff is requesting that the Village Board waive competitive bidding requirements, since this purchase will be made through a Joint Governmental or Cooperative Purchasing Program, and authorize a budget amendment of \$43,359.16 for the acquisition of 22 Panasonic Toughbook 55 units from CDW Corporation of Vernon Hills, Illinois, in the amount of \$83,359.16.

PROCESS

Why do current Toughbooks need to be replaced?

The laptops currently installed in squad vehicles were purchased in 2019 and, over time, have experienced ongoing reliability and connectivity issues. These challenges are largely attributed to the tablet-style design, specifically the detachable screen, which has proven to be prone to loosening from its base. As a result, devices frequently lose connectivity and must be sent back to Panasonic for repair, creating operational gaps when multiple units are out of service.

In addition, while the devices were originally selected for their tablet-style functionality, they have not been effectively configured or utilized in that capacity. Attempting to do so under current conditions could present safety concerns for officers in the field. Usability has also been a concern, as the backlit keyboards are difficult to read at night, even at maximum brightness, which can hinder efficiency during low-light operations.

Overall, these ongoing issues have impacted reliability, usability, and operational readiness, underscoring the need for a more durable and purpose-built solution for patrol use.

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Benefits of new Panasonic Toughbooks?

The Panasonic Toughbook 55 provides a reliable, field-ready computing solution tailored to the day-to-day demands of the Police Department. Built with rugged, military-grade durability, it is designed to withstand the constant movement, vibration, and varied weather conditions associated with patrol operations, resulting in less downtime and more dependable performance for officers in the field.



One of its most valuable features is the 1000-nit full HD touchscreen, which remains clearly visible in direct sunlight and fully functional while wearing gloves. This allows officers to efficiently access CAD, LEADS, and report-writing systems without delay, regardless of conditions. Combined with strong processing power and fast storage, the Toughbook 55 enables seamless multitasking and quick access to critical information during calls for service.

The device also enhances communication and connectivity through reliable wireless capabilities and clear audio performance inside patrol vehicles, even in high-noise environments. Its modular design allows the department to upgrade components over time rather than replace entire units, making it a cost-effective, long-term investment.

OUTCOME

Overall, the Panasonic Toughbook 55 improves officer efficiency, supports safer operations, and ensures consistent access to critical systems. Making it a practical and strategic technology solution for modern policing in the Village.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** General Capital
- **Budgeted Amount:** \$40,000.00
- **Budget Amendment:** \$43,359.16
- **Cost:** \$83,359.16

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LEGAL REVIEW

Not Required

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Waive competitive bidding due to purchasing through a Joint Governmental or Cooperative purchasing program; and, authorize a budget amendment of \$43,359.16 to authorize the purchase of twenty-two (22) Panasonic Toughbook 55 units from CDW Corporation of Vernon Hills, Illinois, in the total amount of \$83,359.16.

ATTACHMENT(S)

CDW Proposal