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TOWN OF JEROME

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STAFF SUMMARY REPORT

FROM: Michael Odle, Deputy Chief of Police

ITEM: **Item: Consideration of the Installation of Security Cameras on Public Safety Buildings**

MEETING DATE: September 8, 2026

Summary:

The cameras would be used for visual security and to assist with criminal investigations. We do not intend to continually monitor the cameras, as staffing for that is neither available, reasonable, nor necessary. Additionally, the police department does not intend to monitor specific areas (the steps, the park, etc.) unless there is an explicit need (a report of criminal activity, heavy pedestrian traffic during events, etc.).

One camera would be installed on the front of the police station, facing Main Street with a 180-degree view of Main. Two cameras would be installed on the Fire Station: one on the front facing the intersection of Clark Street and Main Street, and another on the back of the station with a view of the station parking lot and Perkinsville Road.

Visual Security: The area around police and fire vehicles can be monitored for vandalism or motor vehicle accidents. In the past, two Jerome Police Department vehicles were struck, and the driver failed to remain at the scene. The ability to search by time and date could help identify violators and potentially recoup repair costs for the Town.

Assisting with Criminal Investigations: The cameras will not store beyond a recording cycle (usually 3-30 days, depending on the secure digital (SD) memory card). Searches will be based on “date and time” only; there will be no other search methods (e.g., license plate number, vehicle description, etc.). We have had several crimes in Town that could have been solved if images had been available. Conversely, the use of images and video could refute certain criminal allegations – both scenarios are advantages for the Town and its residents.

Fiscal Impact:

Initial hardware costs (3 cameras, mounting brackets, wiring, etc.) and labor are estimated at \$7,500.00. SD cards will be provided at no charge. Staff will obtain three quotes to identify the option that best benefits the Town.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval to remain consistent with best practices and permit the police department to provide crucial investigative follow-up services.