



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 9/16/2025

ITEM NO: 8

DATE: August 19, 2025
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Chris Constantin, Town Manager
SUBJECT: **Authorize the Town Manager to Purchase Replacement Police Department Mobile Data Computers from CDCE Incorporated for an Amount Not to Exceed \$130,000.00**

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the Town Manager to purchase replacement Police Department Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) from CDCE Incorporated for an amount not to exceed \$130,000.00. The purchase will be made utilizing available budgeted funds through a cooperative purchasing agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total cost for the purchase of fourteen (14) MDC units and fourteen (14) Cradle Point Wi-Fi routers, including installation, and accessories, is \$128,756.12, which was budgeted through the approved Town's Information Technology Internal Service Fund FY 2025-26 Budget.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

This item aligns with the strategic priority of emergency resiliency and response capabilities, along with prudent financial management and ensuring operating efficiencies and safety in Los Gatos. It also aligns with several of the Town's Core Goals, including Good Governance, Civic Engagement, Fiscal Stability, and Public Safety.

BACKGROUND:

Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) are essential technology tools used in field operations across various departments, enabling real-time access to mission-critical systems, including Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD), Records Management Systems (RMS), GPS navigation, and direct

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Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

communication with dispatch and other units. Officers utilize MDCs to see the status, location, and priority of incoming calls, the location of other Officers in the field, and receive National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System and California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System messages, among providing other important capabilities.

Seventeen (17) MDC units, Panasonic Toughbooks, were purchased in 2020 and are now reaching or have exceeded their useful service life. These units are experiencing outdated hardware, reduced battery efficiency, and incompatibility with updated software platforms and operating systems. Fourteen (14) of the MDC units were specifically assigned to each patrol vehicle in the patrol fleet and three (3) MDC units were assigned as mobile devices and shared between Community Service Officers.

DISCUSSION:

Police Department and IT staff researched several feasible MDC replacement options, an option of purchasing additional extended warranties, and seeking comparable products of other manufacturers as a part of the procurement process. Based on the original five-year service and warranty agreement with CDCE, purchasing extended warranties for each existing MDC was approximately \$800 per unit per year (approximately \$13,000 for one additional year of warranty).

The Department evaluated several options for MDC replacement and selected the Panasonic Toughbook as the preferred device due to its rugged build, backward compatibility with current mounting and docking infrastructure, and technical specifications that meet or exceed operational needs. In addition, the Panasonic Toughbook MDCs would be a direct replacement of existing MDCs and would not require additional costs for new MDC docking / charging platforms. The Panasonic Toughbook line has been a reliable and field-proven solution for the Police Department's mobile computing needs, known for its durability, performance in extreme environments, and long-term manufacturer support. After evaluating multiple vendors and solutions, staff determined that the Panasonic Toughbook CF-33 remains the most suitable and cost-efficient option for operational requirements.

Key features of the proposed replacement units include:

- Ruggedized design suitable for in-vehicle and field use
- Compatibility with existing mounts and docking stations (minimizing retrofitting costs)
- Enhanced processing power and memory for current applications
- Improved battery life and hot-swap capability
- 4G/5G connectivity and integrated Cradle Point GPS Wi-Fi modules
- Windows 11 Pro compatibility
- 5-year Protection Plus Warranty

The Police Department purchased its existing MDCs (Panasonic Toughbooks and Cradlepoint routers) from CDCE Incorporated in 2020 and in 2012. The company has an excellent history of supporting their MDCs with the Town and have even helped the Town diagnose problems with MDCs installed by other companies in the past. Based on anticipated tariff increases and potential manufacturing shortages, staff has identified that CDCE can meet product allocation and installation deadlines prior to upcoming regional events. In addition, CDCE is one of a few authorized vendors for both Panasonic and Cradlepoint products with integrated services such as hardware installation and warranties.

As a general rule the Town Code requires competitive bidding for any purchase of goods over \$100,000. However, Town Code Section 2.50.130 sets forth exceptions for single source purchased when competitive bidding would not result in a lower price, and when the Town is using a cooperative purchasing agreement (Subsection (b)(2), (3), and (6)). Each of those exceptions apply here. Therefore, the Town is seeking a single source purchase through CDCE using the cooperative competitive purchasing agreement rather than delaying the process to allow for a competitive bidding process. CDCE provided a comprehensive quote under the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) ValuePoint cooperative purchasing agreement, which allows the Town to procure the devices at a competitive and pre-negotiated rate without the need for a formal bid process.

The proposed procurement includes fourteen (14) MDC units to replace current MDCs across the Police Department vehicle fleet, along with required accessories, extended warranties, and installation services. The Town will maintain the existing equipment as surplus and backup equipment to minimize any downtime of future repairs or unanticipated replacements. There are no additional ongoing costs for this purchase, and staff anticipates the MDCs will maintain optimal performance and durability for the next five years.

CONCLUSION

Based on the cost-effective quote and history of positive technical support from CDCE Incorporated, staff recommends that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to purchase replacement Police Department MDCs in an amount not to exceed \$130,000. The scheduled replacement of MDCs is essential to maintaining effective field operations and ensuring the safety and efficiency of first responders. Purchasing from CDCE via cooperative contract ensures cost-effectiveness and continuity with our existing systems and support structure.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

PAGE 4 OF 4

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. CDCE Incorporated Sales Quote
2. NASPO ValuePoint Contract Documentation
3. Toughbook 33 Specification Sheet