



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 06/01/2021

ITEM NO: 5

DATE: May 18, 2021
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Authorize Town Manager to Execute a Two-Year Lease Agreement with Flock Safety Group for the Installation and Maintenance of 15 Stationary Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) throughout the Town of Los Gatos in the Amount of \$78,750

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Town Manager to execute a two-year lease agreement (Attachment 1) with Flock Safety Group for the installation and maintenance of 15 Stationary Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) throughout the Town of Los Gatos in the amount of \$78,750.

BACKGROUND:

On November 3, 2020, Town Council adopted Resolution 2020-044 (Attachment 4) for the acceptance and approved use of Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (SLESF) grant allocation for FY 2020/21 in the amount of \$100,000. Staff worked to identify and prioritize frontline law enforcement equipment and technology with the proven capability to augment traditional Police services in the deterrence, interruption, and investigation of crime in the Town of Los Gatos. Staff identified a strategically designed network of ALPR cameras manufactured by Flock Safety Group, Inc. as a suitable sole source vendor with technology best designed to meet the goals of this pilot project (Attachment 2).

The Police Department has a history of utilizing ALPR technology mounted to a single patrol vehicle. Even in this limited deployment model, ALPR technology proved useful in identifying stolen vehicles while providing investigative data useful in solving crimes after they had occurred. The implementation of the proposed network of stationary ALPR cameras from the Flock Safety Group is expected to vastly improve the Police Department's ability to identify stolen vehicles entering Los Gatos as well as vehicles associated to missing or endangered persons and vehicles associated to serious crimes under active investigation. Combatting and

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Operations Bureau Captain

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

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BACKGROUND (continued):

detering property crimes, specifically residential, vehicle and commercial burglary were key concerns identified through Police Department interaction with the community.

DISCUSSION:

The Flock Safety ALPR System consists of a deployment of strategically placed cameras throughout an area to provide greater coverage and detailed information for law enforcement to assist as a crime deterrent and investigative tool (Attachment 3). This proposed pilot program would include 15 cameras positioned throughout the Town at key ingress and egress locations. These locations were collectively identified by staff and the Flock Safety deployment team as major thoroughfares and intersections which provide the optimum effectiveness in capturing ALPR data from a public right of way. The ALPR cameras would be positioned to capture the objective data available through an image of the rear of the vehicle only and not data or images of the occupant(s) of the vehicle. These data are then compared with a national law enforcement Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) database to determine if the 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 Mobile Dispatch Computer (MDC) with the vehicle information and last captured ALPR location. The system captures still images only and no streaming video or audio clips.

Flock Safety presented staff with a functional and effective plan to deploy ALPR cameras throughout the community. The Flock program is an all-inclusive model for deploying the ALPR cameras. They are the sole provider of the comprehensive, monitoring, processing, and machine vision services which integrate with the Flock Safety camera. Other ALPR manufacturers would require the Town to purchase the equipment and a service plan. In addition, Flock Safety has an integrated partnership with Axon Enterprises Inc. for which the Police Department has already established agreements with Axon for other equipment and service needs.

The additional benefits of the Flock Safety ALPR System are that they charge an annual flat lease fee per camera of \$2,500, which is wireless, free of infrastructure setup, with the option for solar or direct power access. They also include a two-year warranty, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) compliant cloud-based hosting systems, unlimited individual user licenses, ongoing software enhancements, camera setup, mounting, shipping, handling, and cellular connection. The Flock Safety lease program frees the Town from the burden of costly equipment maintenance and replacement expenditures.

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DISCUSSION (continued):

Flock Safety allows for cancellation of services and lease agreement at any time without cause. Flock Safety's data retention and data privacy access policies provide strict individual user access, a limited thirty (30) day data search capability and is able to provide full audit logs compliant with Federal and State legislation. If authorized, the Police Department will implement revisions to current ALPR policies in accordance with Flock Safety, state guidelines, best practices and the Town's retention policy.

The Flock Safety ALPR camera system is being utilized by more than 210 Police Departments across the United States and in California. In the immediate Bay Area, Milpitas, San Mateo, Atherton, Piedmont, San Ramon, Walnut Creek, and Livermore have implemented stationary Flock Safety ALPR cameras throughout their cities. These jurisdictions have seen positive results in suppressing crime before it occurs and utilizing the ALPR as an investigative tool to assist with investigative leads to apprehending criminals.

On May 11, 2021, the Police Department and staff from the Flock Safety Group held a public meeting attended by more than 50 community residents and stakeholders. The feedback from meeting participants was unanimously positive for the adoption of this technology for the purpose of deterring and solving crime. Neighborhood Watch Groups and individual Homeowners' Associations within Town have also proactively taken steps in working with Flock Safety on private individual purchases of the Flock Safety ALPR cameras.

At the end of the two-year lease period, staff plans to reassess the pilot program results and determine whether to recommend continuation or discontinuation of future funding for the program.

CONCLUSION:

Authorize the Town Manager to execute a two-year lease agreement with Flock Safety Group for the installation and maintenance of fifteen Automated License Plate Reader cameras utilizing existing funds in the amount of \$78,750 from the Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (SLESF), programmed in the Police Department budget.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternatively, the Town Council could request a reduction of this ALPR pilot program to a one-year agreement with Flock Safety which would reduce the total cost of the project to \$41,250 for one year. Staff believes that a two-year pilot program with this technology would provide an adequate amount of time for full evaluation of the system's ability and effectiveness.

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ALTERNATIVES (continued):

In addition, SLESF funding for the total amount (\$78,750) has already been identified and programmed for this project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are sufficient funds available in the FY 2020/21 Operating Budget (SLESF Funds) for lease payment in the amount of \$78,750 for this Flock ALPR two-year pilot project. Ongoing annual payments beyond this two-year pilot program may be re-evaluated and requested through future fiscal year budget processes or when Town Council accepts and allocates future SLESF funds, received from the Citizens' Option for Policing (COPS) grant program on an annual basis.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

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

Attachments:

1. Flock Safety Group Services Agreement Order Form
2. Sole Source Letter for Flock Safety Cameras and Solution
3. Flock Safety ALPR Information
4. Town Council Resolution 2020-044 - SLESF Funding