



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS  
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 05/04/2021

ITEM NO: 3

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DATE: April 22, 2021

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Authorize Actions for the Purchase and Maintenance of Police Vehicle Mobile Audio and Video with Integrated Automated License Plate Reader Technology:

- a. Authorize the Town Manager to Execute a Six-Year Agreement with Axon Enterprises Incorporated for the Purchase and Maintenance of Police Vehicle Mobile Audio and Video with Integrated Automated License Plate Reader Technology in an Amount of \$214,851.49; and
- b. Authorize an Expenditure Budget Transfer of \$35,222.28 from the Equipment Replacement Fund to the Police Department Operating Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize actions for the purchase and maintenance of Police vehicle mobile audio and video with integrated automated license plate reader technology:

- a. Authorize the Town Manager to execute a six-year agreement with Axon Enterprises Incorporated for the purchase and maintenance of Police vehicle Mobile Audio and Video with integrated Automated License Plate Reader technology in the amount of \$214,851.49.
- b. Authorize an Expenditure Budget Transfer of \$35,222.28 from the Equipment Replacement Fund to the Police Department operating budget.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Police Department currently incorporates video and other technologies to maintain its longstanding commitment to transparency and accountability. One of the tools that is currently deployed is Mobile Audio and Video (MAV) systems in marked patrol vehicles. MAV in addition to body-worn camera (BWC) videos offer an unbiased view of interaction between

**PREPARED BY:** Greg Borromeo  
Traffic Sergeant

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

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BACKGROUND (continued):

sworn Department members and the community. Utilizing the MAV in conjunction with the BWC's is an important redundancy in order to present the most complete accounting of an incident and especially since the BWC's often have an obstructed view or are dislodged in a physical altercation.

The MAV captures a forward-facing view of the marked Police vehicle and a rear-facing view of the prisoner transport compartment. Several methods can be used to activate the MAV including the use of emergency lighting, collision detection, speed, and manual activation. Upon activation, MAV captures sixty seconds of video prior to the activation and remains recording video until the conclusion of the incident. These videos are retained in accordance with the Town's Retention Policy.

The Police Department has a long history of utilizing Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology to collect and retain license plate information that can assist in identifying vehicles associated to Amber Alerts, missing people, criminal warrants, persons of interest, stolen vehicles, and stolen license plates. The existing MAV and ALPR systems are significantly past their recommended service life and are no longer supported by their respective manufacturers.

First generation ALPR equipment was added onto the exterior of marked patrol vehicles. Due to the high costs, only two marked patrol vehicles were initially outfitted with ALPR devices. Technology has allowed for the best practice of collecting and retaining digital evidence on a single operating platform. In 2020, the Town Council approved the purchase and deployment of Axon Enterprises Incorporated (Axon) BWC's. Axon's Evidence.com is used to manage and store digital evidence obtained through BWC's and other digital media. Evidence.com also allows for the collection and retention of audio and video evidence from MAV, body-worn cameras (BWCs), ALPR, and computer-automated dispatch information (CAD).

DISCUSSION:

The Police Department has identified Axon as the preferred vendor for the MAV system. Axon's Fleet 2 is the current Axon MAV solution which enables enhanced MAV video and the ability to leverage Axon's Evidence.com for storing the digital evidence in addition to other systems already being supported by Axon. Axon Fleet is compatible with the Department's current Axon BWC's. Axon Fleet turns on Axon's MAV and BWCs simultaneously when an officer initiates an enforcement stop; consequently, the police officer has one less activation to think about during this high-risk activity. Axon's current technology also embeds ALPR in the forward-facing MAV cameras and allows all patrol vehicles to be ALPR capable.

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DISCUSSION (continued):

Additionally, Axon Fleet and BWC videos will be stored in Evidence.com, allowing efficient administration of video evidence. When used in conjunction, the videos allow for real-time blending of different camera views in a "Multicam" feature that plays videos recorded by other cameras, synchronized by location and time, in one screen view. The six-year agreement with Axon would incorporate Fleet 2 for the first year of the contract.

Axon's Fleet 3 is the next generation Axon MAV solution which also integrates ALPR technology. The installation during the first year of Fleet 2 would enable the Department to upgrade to Fleet 3 in year two. There will be no additional installation cost for this upgrade. Axon's Fleet 3 installation in all 14 patrol vehicles increases the number of vehicles with ALPR technology in the field. Axon's Evidence.com would store and retain all video evidence and license plate data collected by the Police Department. The retention of that data is configurable to the Police Department's specifications to adhere to local and state requirements.

Axon focusses in its research and development teams to create hardware and software that resolve real-world problems faced by law enforcement agencies. Some of the essential features to note:

- A 6-year contract includes a full warranty on all cameras and equipment.
- A Department of Justice-compliant cloud-based storage system that will eliminate the need for on-site servers.
- Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System and (CAD/RMS) integration allow for videos and still images to be automatically assigned to CAD/RMS-generated case numbers. Officers will no longer be required to manually enter metadata, allowing staff to use their time on other essential duties.
- Videos captured in the Evidence.com platform can be redacted and prepared for dissemination.
- MAV videos will no longer need to be separately burned onto DVDs. Instead, the video files are prepared in conjunction with BWC videos and sent via an e-mail link to a specified Axon user. The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office is already using the Evidence.com platform and will have access to prepared video files.
- Axon operates through a service model which includes a warranty of all applicable systems and replacement at the end of the contract.

In accordance with the Town's Purchasing Policy, Section 7c (Cooperative Purchasing), this purchase is based on a formal bid process completed by the State of California Department of General Services, which allows for other municipalities to purchase equipment using their formal bid proposal documents.

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CONCLUSION:

Authorize the Town Manager to execute a six-year agreement with Axon Enterprises Inc. for the purchase and maintenance of Mobile Audio and Video cameras with integrated Automatic License Plate Reader technology and approve necessary budget adjustments including a transfer of funds from the Equipment Replacement Fund to the Police Department operating budget.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternatively, the Town Council could direct staff to delay the replacement of the equipment. Staff does not recommend this alternative as the current Mobile Audio and Video system has significantly exceeded the recommended service life. Also, not deploying a MAV system will impact daily operations and has the potential to increase liability by limiting the level of transparency expected by the community when it comes to incidents involving police personnel.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are sufficient funds available in the Equipment Replacement Fund for the payment of the first year for MAV equipment. A \$35,222.28 revenue and expenditure budget adjustment, including a transfer of funds from the Equipment Replacement Fund to the general fund, will be required. Ongoing annual payments summarized in the table below will be requested through the annual budget process.

Summary of Annual Payments		
	Fiscal Year	Amount
Year 1	20/21	\$ 35,222.28
Year 2	21/22	\$ 36,153.17
Year 3	22/23	\$ 35,869.01
Year 4	23/24	\$ 35,869.01
Year 5	24/25	\$ 35,869.01
Year 6	25/26	\$ 35,869.01
		\$ 214,851.49

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

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

Attachments:

1. Axon Agreement