



Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 07/21/2026

Agenda Item: Flock Safety Contract

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BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

UPDATE:

At the June 16th meeting, Council requested the Flock Safety contract be discussed at the July 21st meeting. All documents pertaining to Flock that were previously included in Council are again provided in this packet. The case examples document has been updated with recent examples of Flock use. A summary of an audio clip depicting the day-to-day use of the Flock system by the police department has also been added.

Staff see tremendous value in the use of Flock for public safety operations and believe the current use of the system is reasonable with tight administrative oversight. Staff recommend no change to the Flock contract. However, there are various ways in which the use of the Flock system could be further restricted if the Council prefers additional guardrails be put in place.

PREVIOUS INFORMATION:

The Whitewater Police Department utilizes Flock Safety automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras as an investigative resource. Recently, public officials have fielded concerns about the Flock system. The primary concerns noted have been perceived inaccuracies of Flock Safety data, concern about Flock Safety data being used by agencies for specific enforcement types, and security vulnerabilities. A previously received email, a response from Flock Safety addressing those concerns, and supporting documentation is included in the packet.

WPD's policy on ALPR usage is also provided for context on how we limit the use of Flock cameras. Staff feel confident that we are minimizing risk associated with ALPR use through our policy and practice and feel that the benefits of utilizing Flock Safety ALPR cameras significantly outweigh potential risks. Included in the packet are a list of WPD case examples where Flock was utilized to resolve the case, demonstrating the efficient and effective resource that Flock cameras provide WPD staff. That investigative resource positively impacts the general public by increasing the likelihood of solving our more challenging cases as well as increasing the likelihood of officers recovering stolen property. Flock cameras also significantly increase officers' ability to intervene in critical life safety events such as abductions, individuals with suicidal ideations, and "rolling" domestic abuse cases occurring in vehicles.

Currently Whitewater PD shares flock data with other law enforcement agencies, and we request access to cameras of any law enforcement agency that shares with our agency. While it is possible for our agency to restrict access to outside agencies, much of the investigative capability of the Flock system rests in the ability for agencies to share the data across invisible jurisdictional boundaries, making all law enforcement more effective and efficient. It should be noted that only the last 30 days of Flock data is available for any searches that staff complete. A total of 13 Flock cameras are installed in Whitewater at a total annual cost of \$39,000 (\$3,000 per camera). The current Flock contract runs through the end of 2027.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
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(Dates, committees, action taken)

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

\$39,000 annually

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend no change to the Flock contract. If Council prefers that additional guardrails be employed to further restrict use of the Flock system, staff can provide a variety of options.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Email from Citizen2. Response from Flock Safety3. LPR Myths and Facts4. LPR FAQ5. Flock Safety Security Claims and Facts6. WPD Policy – ALPR7. WPD Flock Case Examples8. WPD Summary of Audio Clip9. Flock contract 2026-27 |
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