



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: March 16, 2020

Prepared By: Chief Michael D. McCoy and Deputy Chief Jeff Stevens

Agenda Item: Purchase Authorization - New Squad Car Equipment

Explanation: The three squad cars purchased for patrol were delivered. Authorizing a vendor to order needed parts now will minimize the time the cars sit unequipped and unused. We seek an authorization for a single-source purchase from Ragan Communication, as that company has equipped all of our squad cars, resulting in, nearly as possible, identical set ups among the cars. This identical setup is critical in our view because it allows an officer in high-stress driving to operate emergency equipment by rote, as opposed to looking for different switches or buttons. Use of another area vendor will result in a different layout, if for no other reason that another vendor will use a different brand of equipment. When we last competitively shopped squad car setup, we found that even a fairly aggressive bid from an out-of-town vendor did not make up for what we lost in travel for installation and repair. The availability of Ragan's for immediate repair in the future is also an important consideration, as mixing installation and repair vendors has led to problems in our fleet in the past. We have authorized transitioning equipment from one existing car, which we plan to sell, to a new car (that cost is included in the calculation below). In accordance with our fleet plan for next fiscal year, we seek to equip two cars with new equipment. Installation services will include some equipment we obtain from other vendors (and which we would obtain from other vendors regardless of which company did the installation). That equipment includes in-car cameras and mobile modems.

Fiscal Impact: Squad cars are normally equipped with accrued Motor Equipment Replacement Fund (MERF) money. Given the change to our fleet plan, start-up costs will be higher than accrued MERF funding, as outlined in budget discussion. The anticipated cost for stripping the vehicle for sale and equipping the three cars will not exceed \$27,517. We anticipate, prior to the sale of one used squad car, that the MERF shortfall will not exceed \$7,490. We intend to cover the MERF shortfall with unallocated funds from the Police Vehicle Fund, a statutorily-restricted fund with a balance that will cover the overage without affecting the General Fund.

Action Requested: Authorization by the City Council of the described single-source purchase from Ragan Communications not to exceed \$27,517 for transfer of usable equipment from one car, including needed purchase and installation of new equipment for that car, and purchase and installation of emergency equipment for the two remaining new cars.