



# BALLWIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

## MEMORANDUM

Date: May 4, 2015  
To: Bob Kuntz, City Administrator  
From: Chief Steven Schicker  
Subject: Digital In-Car Video Recording System

We currently utilize VHS In-Car Video technology in 13 vehicles of the Police Department's patrol fleet. This technology is nearly 15 years old and is no longer supported by the manufacturer. As part of the 2015 Operating Budget there is funding allocated to upgrade the current system.

RFP 15-22 for a Digital In-Car Video Recording system was released on March 3, 2015 for sealed bids and a bid opening date of April 17, 2015 at 10AM. We received four bids by the deadline and no vendor was present for the bid opening.

Vendor	Watch Guard Video	L3 Mobile Vision	Safety Vision	Digital Ally
# of RFP Specifications	121	121	121	121
Total # RFP Specs Compliant	121	112	109	59
Total # RFP Specs Non-Compliant	0	9	12	62
Total # of Key Specs Non-Compliant	0	7	9	58
Percentage of Compliance	100%	93%	90%	49%
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Total Bid Price (13 Units)	\$ 96,313.00	\$ 108,174.00	\$ 80,633.18	\$ 165,677.00
Price Per Additional Unit	\$ 5,960.00	\$ 4,965.00	\$ 4,849.00	\$ 4,021.00
* Digital Ally price includes \$100,000 per year Full Tech Support cost.				

After a comprehensive evaluation of the responses, reference inquiries and product review, my recommendation is to accept the second lowest bidder, Watch Guard Video. Watch Guard was 100% compliant and was highly recommended by their references. Their system is so highly regarded that three of the references provided by Safety Vision, the low bidder, advised they have discontinued the use of the Safety Vision product and have moved to the Watch Guard system.

The multiple advantages of this unit go beyond the function of recording traffic stops. This technology will be recording the vehicles movements at all times. It will gather video data continuously while the unit is powered on. This will allow review at a later date for intelligence information, administrative purposes, provide for evidence and scene documentation, and surveillance capabilities.

Contingent on Board approval, funding for the Digital In-Car Video Recording system will come from two sources. The 13 cameras, server, installation and related hardware to replace the current system in the amount of **\$76,693.00** will come from Federal Drug Asset Funds. The software, training and extended warranty totaling **\$19,620.00** will come from the 2015 Operating Budget, is under budget.

During the 2015 budget preparation funding was originally proposed for this upgrade through the 2015 Operating Budget alone. Upon further budget analysis it was decided that the cameras, server, installation and related hardware (the bulk of the upgrade costs) would come from Federal Drug Asset Funds to reduce the Police Department's 2015 Operating Budget. Based on this budget approach, we structured the RFP to obtain pricing for three additional units to expand the systems capability.

The Sergeant and Business Resource Officer cars do not have in-car cameras. Watch Guard provided a unit price for additional cameras, hardware, software and warranties at **\$5,960.00** per additional unit. I propose purchasing two additional units to cover these vehicles. Additional funds from Federal Drug Asset Funds for the two units total **\$9,990.00**. The additional software and warranty cost in the amount of **\$1,930.00** will come from the Operating Budget. This will increase the total Operating Budget expenditure for this project to **\$21,550**, a budget overrun by **\$1,195.00**.

I recommend the purchase of two additional units to complete the Patrol Division's fleet as part of this proposal. The old system will be sold on GovDeals to offset the Operating Budget expenditure. Total proposed funding requested is listed below:

Funding Source	Federal Drug Asset Funding	Operating Budget	Total Expenditures
Total Bid Price - 13 Units	\$ 76,693.00	\$ 19,620.00	\$ 96,313.00
Price 2 Additional Unit	\$ 9,990.00	\$ 1,930.00	\$ 11,920.00
Total Expenditure - 15 Units	\$ 86,683.00	\$ 21,550.00	\$ 108,233.00

As we have discussed the use of Body-Worn Cameras in the past, I wish to report that several vendors in the industry are still working on an integrated system, while several vendors have opted to remain with two separate technological systems. Watch Guard is conducting research with the anticipation of providing information later this fall on an integration of the Body-Worn Camera with the In-Car system. We have seen the challenges agencies have experienced who have implemented Body-Worn Cameras as it relates to the cost of data storage, personnel costs of system management and issues with Sunshine Law Requests, which have resulted in exurbanite non-recoupable expenses to the agencies.

While I am not opposed to Body-Worn Cameras, my recommendation is to postpone further discussion on this until we see the progress that technology offers as it relates to integrating with In-Car Camera Systems and legislative issues at both the State and Federal level are finalized. There are several bills in both the Missouri House and Senate related to Body and In-Car Camera Systems which have a high probability of impacting policy at the agency level regarding data storage and public access to information, both resulting in increased system operating costs. Federal Funding for Body-Worn Cameras has been proposed by the Obama administration in the amount of \$75 million dollars. On Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Department of Justice announced a new \$20 million program to fund the use of police Body-Worn Cameras to local law enforcement. The plan includes \$17 million in grants for departments to buy cameras and \$3 million for training, technical assistance and evaluation.

Note: The DOJ funding, nor the Obama proposal, include data storage as part of the funding source.

Respectfully,

  
Chief Steven Schicker