



## **Staff Report**

**Subject:** Stationary License Plate Recognition Cameras

**Department/Program:** Police Department

**Explanation:**

Protecting our jurisdiction is of the utmost importance for the Ballwin Police Department and the City of Ballwin. In doing so we understand that many threats come into our community from other jurisdictions. Quick notification of these threats helps us to better control crime and protect the citizens who live in Ballwin, work in Ballwin and visit Ballwin.

To that end we are proposing a pilot program that would put stationary LPR cameras on Manchester Rd. These cameras would monitor the egress and ingress at the city limits for those vehicles and/or occupants currently wanted for criminal activity.

These cameras also have the ability to count vehicles for future MODOT grant application.

The City of Ellisville currently has three cameras. One on S/B Clarkson @ Clayton, one at the entrance to Blue Bird Park and one monitoring W/B Manchester at their eastern city limit. Their Manchester camera reads approximately 250,000 license plates per month.

Between March 31-April 28, 2021, 81 wanted license plate "hits" were made by the camera system. Of those, 19 were for Stolen Vehicles or Stolen License Plates. These alerts have resulted in several recovered stolen vehicles by the Ballwin Police Department.

Three vendors were contacted in reference to providing quotes for fixed location License Plate Reader products. The three vendors were Vigilant, Brite, and Flock Safety. All three vendors provide self-contained camera units of a similar quality. Each vendor was asked to provide a quote for two cameras, powered by solar energy, which could be mounted on unobtrusive poles along the roadway.

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Vigilant SAAS: \$8,836

NOTES: Cameras leased, User install, Mounting pole not included, Cell service included.

Brite: \$36,082

Notes: Cameras must be purchased, Professional install, Mounting pole included, Cell service not included

Flock: \$ 10,500

Notes: Cameras leased, Professional install, Mounting pole included, Cell service included.

**Recommendation:**

The recommendation is to proceed with a 2 year contract with Flock Safety for 2 LPR cameras to be installed at the city limits along Manchester Road. Flock is the only provider of an all-inclusive package for installation, maintenance and ownership. This is an ideal situation for a 2-year pilot program.

Additionally, The Flock Safety system is the only one of the three utilized in the St Louis region, with six different agencies having deployed over 50 cameras. Participating in this existing regional asset would provide Ballwin Police Officers the ability to enhance the public safety plan of the Ballwin Police Department.

Although this was not budgeted in FY2021, we have already seen a savings of approx. \$5,000 in Account 01-03-30-213050 (Misc. Contractual Services) due to recent other program adjustments. This money would simply be reallocated to this project, which is also a contractual service.

**Submitted By:** Col. Douglas W. Schaeffler, Chief of Police

**Date:** May, 10, 2021