



May 15, 2015

TO: BRUCE RUDD, City Manager
Office of the City Manager

FROM: JERRY P. DYER, Chief of Police
Office of the Chief

SUBJECT: AWARDING A SOLE SOURCE AGREEMENT WITH TASER INTERNATIONAL, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,586,081 FOR PURCHASE AND SERVICE OF 400 TASER AXON FLEX BODY-WORN VIDEO CAMERAS, 400 TASER CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPONS, UNLIMITED DATA STORAGE; AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF POLICE OR HIS DESIGNEES TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

TASER International, Inc. ("TASER"), has patented a body-worn video camera technology system – AXON Flex, conducted electrical weapons ("CEWs"), and a secure patented cloud-based video storage component called Evidence.com.

The AXON Flex camera's trademarked mounting capabilities provide unparalleled options for users to place a video camera on sunglasses, helmets, lapels, and uniform epaulettes to provide a relatively unobstructed point of view. The variety of mounting options and video storage is not available from other manufacturers. TASER has emerged as the leader in body-worn video technology.

After almost three years of review and testing of other technology, the department made the decision to purchase the TASER AXON Flex system. One hundred additional cameras and cloud-based user storage licenses were purchased and have been deployed. Officers, detectives, and local Deputy District Attorneys were trained on how to access and use the system.

TASER, after extensive negotiations, has agreed to replace the Department's aging CEWs with new units as part of this agreement. The Police Department has used TASER CEWs for approximately 15 years. Officers are trained in TASER CEW deployment such that officer and public safety are maximized. In addition, because the Department's officers are thoroughly trained in deploying TASER CEWs, moving to another system, even if there were a comparable model, would require extensive time and training investments. TASER manufactures the industry standard CEW, with no comparable units available. TASER CEW's employ a unique propellant system, distinguishing the CEWs from a firearm. This is an important factor when determining level of force. TASER CEW's also use a reloadable system with serialized, confetti like

“afids” for evidence control. TASER CEW’s record specialized information such as the date, time, and duration of each trigger pull. This information has proven helpful to the city when addressing lawsuits or complaints regarding excessive use of force.

To maintain consistency and avoid the confusion and loss of time that would occur if we added additional cameras and storage under a different system, the Police Department recommends that Council authorize the Chief of Police or designee to specify TASER, without substitution, for the purchase of 300 TASER AXON Flex body-worn video cameras under the sole source competitive bidding exception without an “or equal” provision in the specifications. Further we recommend that Council award a purchase and service contract of \$2,586,081 to TASER for the purchase and maintenance of the 300 TASER AXON Flex body-worn cameras, unlimited data storage, and replacement of 400 TASER Conducted Electrical Weapons (“CEWs”). This agreement will provide the Police Department with 300 new AXON Flex body-worn video cameras, in addition to the Department’s 100 existing cameras, for a total of 400 body cameras. This package also replaces the Department’s current TASER CEWs, which are past the recommended replacement period, providing the Department with 400 new CEWs. The proposed agreement allows for the replacement of both body-worn cameras and CEWs on a rotational basis, allowing the department to obtain and then maintain current technology without additional cost.

In FY 2015, the Department purchased 100 body-worn cameras from TASER for \$163,500. This updated and revised contract totals \$2,586,081 to purchase an additional 300 body-worn cameras and 400 CEWs, beginning in 2015 and payable over five years. The first year payment in 2015 will total \$515,213, and the subsequent four payments will be \$517,717 from 2016 through 2019. Funding will be from a combination of sources as shown below.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Private donation	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
SLESA-Camera	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	325,000
SLESA-Taser	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	325,000
BSCC	85,213	87,717	87,717	87,717	87,717	436,081
General Fund	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	1,000,000
Total funding	\$515,213	\$517,717	\$517,717	\$517,717	\$517,717	\$2,586,081

The Department received \$500,000 from an anonymous private donor, and we plan to use \$100,000 per year from this source. The Department will also use \$130,000 of Supplemental Law Enforcement Services (SLESA) grant funds that were previously set aside for annual body camera video storage costs and Taser CEW's, and will be used to partially fund this contract. Additionally, the Department has set aside \$85,213 of Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) grant funds for the first year and \$87,717 in the remaining four years. The remaining \$200,000 per year will be from the Department's General Fund budget. In Fiscal Year 2015 the Department will utilize \$200,000 of General Fund salary savings from attrition, and starting in FY16, we request a \$200,000 annual budget increase for this contract through 2019.

☒ Approve Request

☐ Deny Request



Bruce Rudd, City Manager



Date

JPD/vd