



Date of City Council Meeting: June 1, 2010

TO: Laurel Barcelona, City Administrator

FROM: Timothy L. Dabney, Chief of Police
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**SUBJECT: AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE MOBILE DATA
COMPUTER / IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEM**

Recommendation: That the City Council:

Allocate \$102,069 from Anti-Vehicle Theft Act funding provided to the City of Lompoc under Assembly Bill 183, and authorize the expenditure of those funds on a contract for the purchase of mobile data computers with In-Car Video systems, and

Approve the award of a contract with RoboVu, LLC for \$186,423.55 to purchase Mobile Data Computers and In-Car Video, and related hardware and software, for eleven police patrol vehicles and authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a purchase order for the same.

Background:

In 2004, the Lompoc Police Department entered into contract with JLT Corporation to purchase Mobile Data Terminals (computers) for police patrol vehicles. The MDT's provided the police officer in the police cruiser the ability to receive and send data via Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) software. This enabled dispatchers and officers several benefits which first and foremost were designed to improve officer safety. With the use of the mobile computing technology officers and dispatchers have reduced radio "air" time, providing a clearer channel of communication for the officer to transmit critical information when necessary.

Mobile computing has several other benefits. It was designed to allow police officers the ability to type police reports in the field while in their units, rather than having to come into the police station to complete reports at designated work stations. This aids the community by allowing the uniformed officer more time in the field rather than in the station completing reports. Mobile computing technology also affords officers access to the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS), the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), and other databases designed to provide critical information of persons and property while the officer remains in the field.

The original contract with JLT Corp. provided software support for 5 years. This support ended in 2009. During the five-year contract period, JLT Corporation was purchased by RoboVU Inc. Hardware and software in the original contract has now run its course and is no longer supported for software and maintenance.

The Police Department, in partnership with the City Purchasing Department, has created specifications for the latest generation of mobile data terminals with faster processors, upgraded monitors and in car video recording capability. The City requested proposals from more than 25 vendors known to be in this business, advertised in the Lompoc Record, posted the bid on the City Web Site, and emailed to an email list of bidders. A pre-proposal conference was held with 8 attendees. All questions were answered by addenda.

The City received eight (8) proposals which were considered by an evaluation committee from the Police Department based on evaluation criteria listed in the RFP. The proposal range of ratings was 56% to 94%. The two (2) highest rated systems were invited to provide installed demonstration units to the Committee for testing and evaluation. The testing period lasted 10 weeks.

Coban	94.0%	\$230,780.55
Robovu	90.5%	\$186,423.55

The Committee and the officers selected Robovu as the best overall system to supply the Police Department with this technology, and recommended the award to RoboVu, LLC.

Discussion:

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Recovery Act"). As one of its many elements, the Recovery Act provided the U.S. Department of Justice with funding for grants to assist state and local law enforcement to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system through various means, including enhanced technology that would improve operations and reduce court appearances made by officers on an overtime basis.

The Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Grant Program is a partnership among federal, state, and local governments to create safer communities. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is authorized to award grants for use by states and units of local government to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system. An emphasis on violent crime, serious offenders, and enforcement of state and local laws are a priority. Under the program, grants may be used to provide personnel, equipment, training, technical assistance, and information systems for more widespread apprehension, prosecution, adjudication, detention, and rehabilitation of offenders who violate state and local laws.

Grant funding under this program is not competitive and the allocation to specific qualifying jurisdictions is pre-designated by the Department of Justice. Grant rules established by the Bureau of Justice Assistance require a county-wide Memorandum of Understanding between law enforcement agencies to designate the lead agency in grant reporting and identify how grant funds will be expended at the local level.

On March 25, 2009, the heads of all law enforcement agencies within Santa Barbara County met to discuss future allocation of funds allotted through the Byrne Grant. A Memorandum of Understanding was completed on April 27, 2009, and signed by all city administrators and the County administrator regarding the Federal allocation of Byrne Grant funding to the various governmental/law enforcement entities in Santa Barbara County. The City of Lompoc was allocated \$94,354 designated for the “Lompoc Police-Byrne JAG Mobile Data Terminal Replacement” program.

In addition to Mobile Data Computing, the In-Car Video component will allow officers to record most of their contacts during their patrol shift, both video and audio. Contacts include traffic stops, citations, arrests for Driving Under the Influence, consensual encounters, etc. Recordings of these contacts can be used to augment prosecution in court. Defense attorneys chose not to contest an arrest because of the existence of video evidence from the police car. This results in faster resolution of cases and fewer court appearances requiring over-time.

Video recording of contacts also reduces citizen complaints. Most cities that have added In-Car Video technology have experienced significant reductions in staff time to conduct administrative investigations and reduced incidents of false complaints. Many law enforcement agencies report that police officers’ careers and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been saved in civil litigation because of In-Car Video recordings. Staff has also found instances in which crimes were prevented or solved by video recording capability.

This acquisition will provide the Lompoc Police Department a system that can transfer data between the servers housed at the police station to individual Mobile Data Computers (MDC) in patrol vehicles via mobile routers. The technology chosen for this project will utilize the established City of Lompoc WiFi system to transfer data. This newer technology will allow video streaming and file transfer wirelessly. The added benefit is the City’s WiFi system will be bolstered by the addition of mobile routers stored in the trunks of the police cars. In essence, every patrol vehicle will become a WiFi hot spot, making WiFi service to our community stronger.

The MDC/In-Car Video purchase is the first of a three-phased technology project that was approved in concept by City Council on November 17, 2009.

- **Phase 1** – Upgrade MDCs, establish In-Car Video Capabilities, use and enhance City WiFi capabilities for data transfer, and establish a “backbone” server to support Phase 2. Funded by Byrne Grant and Anti-Vehicle Theft monies.
- **Phase 2** – Install wireless “pole” cameras, both public and covert at various high crime and high traffic collision locations throughout the City. Conduct graffiti, vehicle burglary, and vehicle theft sting operations as well as deploy a mobile surveillance vehicle. Overtime and equipment is funded by the COPS Technology Grant.
- **Phase 3** – Tie existing City and Police Department video monitoring system into a central database. Funding not yet identified. Phase 3 will not be considered in the next 24 months, unless alternate funding becomes available.

As indicated above, a significant portion of the MDC/In-Car Video project (Phase 1) is dedicated to build a sufficient back-end server that is capable of managing the video data created by the addition of the In-Car Video technology. The 8 TB “Intransa 210” Rack Server and the RoboHUB Central Management System with RoboSYNC Wireless transfer utility are built with the potential of adding on to manage the future City Surveillance Camera Project (Phase 2) funded by the COPS Technology Grant.

Fiscal Impact:

The “Lompoc Police-Byrne JAG Mobile Data Terminal Replacement Grant” allocation of funds for the Mobile Data Terminals totals \$94,354.00. This funding has been designated to replace the existing Mobile Data Terminals and funding an 8 TB Intransa Server including the cost of installation and related sales tax. The MDT/In-Car Video project was originally scaled for 14 police field units. In order to accommodate the available grant funding, the project is now going to provide equipment for 11 patrol vehicles.

Additional funding in the amount of approximately \$102,069 is necessary to fully fund the recommended level of the contract proposal. The City has been accumulating revenue earned via Assembly Bill 183 (California Vehicle Code Section 10901), the “Anti-Vehicle Theft Act.” That act provides for the collection of a fee of One Dollar (\$1.00) per vehicle per year for vehicles registered in the County of Santa Barbara. The revenues are collected by the DMV and periodically allocated to the City based on our population (as compared with the County as a whole). The City has accumulated funds in a dedicated revenue account in the General Fund. That account has not been used to fund eligible expenditures for several years and the accumulated designated Fund Balance reserve is currently in excess of \$110,000. The purpose of this fund, by legislative intent, is only to be used to provide local and county law enforcement and to provide the California Highway Patrol funds to fight vehicle theft and related crime. The addition of the In-Car Video system will provide the capability and technology to make evidentiary documentation of thieves in possession of stolen vehicles, in addition to tracking capabilities currently practiced thus, serving as a deterrent and reducing the volume of stolen automobiles in the City of Lompoc. As such, it is appropriate to expend “Anti-Vehicle Theft Act” funds for this purpose. Specifically, this money will fund Phase 2 of this project which is for the award of a contract with Robovu, LLC. The contract will provide for the acquisition and installation of a video system, related server equipment, software and associated sales taxes. It will also provide for the initial maintenance agreement, training and related costs. In addition, the appropriation will provide a limited amount of additional funding, if needed for unanticipated costs (\$10,000). Any unused monies from this fund will remain in the Anti-Vehicle Theft Act designated reserve fund.

Summary of Project:	\$186, 423	RoboVu Contract for System
	<u>10,000</u>	Contingency Funds
	\$196,423	
Summary of Funding:	\$ 94,354	Byrne JAG Grant
	<u>102,069</u>	AB 183 Funding
	\$196,423	

Consequences:

Funding for the Mobile Data Terminals (Phase 1) is provided via the above-referenced Byrne JAG Grant. Funds are already encumbered for this portion of the project. Funding for the In-Car Video and related components (Phase 2) is being requested to be authorized from the AB 183 (Anti-Vehicle Theft Act) designated reserve funds. Without the AB 183 funding, Phase 2 of the project will not be completed as proposed.

A byproduct of this project are plans to transfer serviceable existing mobile data computers from the Lompoc Police Department to the Lompoc Fire Department allowing them to utilize the computer aided dispatch, access computerized pre-plan data, and complete reports and call notes in the field. Should this proposal not be approved this improvement would not be available to the Lompoc Fire Department.

Conclusion:

Staff recommends City Council approve the allocation of \$102,069 in Anti-Vehicle Theft Act (AB 183) funds for the appropriation of contract services and equipment and award a contract to purchase the Mobile Data Computer system with in-Car Video recording to Robovu LLC for a total amount of \$186,423.55.

Attachments: [Purchase Order and associated contract between the City of Lompoc and Robovu, LLC.](#)

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Brad Wilkie, Mngmt. Services Director

Timothy L. Dabney, Chief of Police

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Laurel Barcelona, City Administrator