

**City Council
Agenda Memo**



**City Council
Meeting Date: Dec 4, 2014**

TO: David A. Vela, Interim City Manager

FROM: Stan Standridge, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Written Resolution authorizing the purchase of digital dash cameras and interrogation room systems from WatchGuard.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Chapter 2 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure codifies the prohibition of bias-based policing. In addition to requiring an annual report to the governing council and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, law enforcement agencies are required to collect data on all self-initiated traffic stops. In furtherance of this data, Abilene has used dash-camera systems since 2002. The current systems in all marked units are 5 years old, and they use Microsoft XP. XP is no longer supported by Microsoft as of April 2014, thus necessitating replacements. Additionally, some units have already failed and more risk failure as the computers age. The Police Department and the Marshal's Office seek 79 new units for vehicles and 4 interrogation-room systems.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The digital camera systems will be purchased from WatchGuard through a cooperative contract with HGAC. Purchases made through cooperative contracts meet all of the competitive bid requirements found in the Texas Local Government Code.

The purchase price does not include the acquisition of a server, a Network Attached Storage (NAS), or DVD burner, which will be considered outside of this contract through the Technology Fund. The approximate cost for these three items is \$35,100.

FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT

These purchases are subject to leasing options approved by the vendor and the City. Costs for the fleet units, interview room solutions, 4 access points for wireless upload, and warranties and licenses for a 5-year period, are \$513,880. The City seeks a leasing period over 36 to 48 months, although the equipment will be delivered and installed by the vendor at one time. Because camera systems are essentially computers, their life expectancy is 5 years, thus requiring routine replacement in the years ahead.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Council approve the lease purchase of these items. Video evidence of citizen contacts is invaluable for risk reduction, criminal prosecution and transparency of police operations.

Prepared by: Name ___ Stan Standridge _____ Title ___ Chief of Police _____	Item No. <u>7.3</u>	Disposition by City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Approved Ord/Res# _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Denied _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
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City Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS
AUTHORIZING THE COOPERATIVE PURCHASE OF WATCHGUARD DIGITAL DASH
CAMERAS AND INTERROGATION ROOM SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, Chapter 2 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure codifies the prohibition of bias-based policing and requires the collection of data on all self-initiated traffic stops; and

WHEREAS, the Abilene Police Department has used dash-camera systems since 2002 to meet the requirements of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and to limit legal liability; and

WHEREAS, the current camera systems in all marked police vehicles are five years old and no longer supported by the software manufacturer; and

WHEREAS, seventy-nine new camera units are needed in Abilene Police and City Marshal vehicles and four new camera units are needed in the Abilene Police Department interrogation rooms; and

WHEREAS, after extensive testing and evaluation of multiple camera systems, a digital system sold by WatchGuard best meets the current and future needs of the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the WatchGuard camera systems are found on the HGAC cooperative purchasing listing; and

WHEREAS, cooperative purchases from HGAC meet the competitive bidding requirements of the Texas Local Government Code.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
ABILENE, TEXAS:**

Part 1: That the Interim City Manager is hereby authorized to initiate the purchase of 79 digital dash cameras and 4 interrogation room camera systems from WatchGuard through their cooperative purchasing contract with HGAC.

Part 2: This authorization is subject to approval of leasing options by the vendor, the City of Abilene Director of Finance, and the Interim City Manager.

ADOPTED this 4th day of December, 2014.

ATTEST:

Danette Dunlap, City Secretary

Norman Archibald, Mayor

APPROVED:

T. Daniel Santee, City Attorney