



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** January 23, 2023

SUBJECT: Authorize the sole source purchase of 12 additional pole-mounted Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras and the subscription renewal for 9 existing ALPR cameras from FLOCK Safety, Inc, not to exceed the amount of \$74,700.

PRESENTER: Mike Young, Assistant Police Chief

SUMMARY:

This purchase is necessary to augment the current Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) systems provided by Flock Safety. ALPR cameras are strategically located throughout the City of North Richland Hills to notify officers when a stolen or known suspicious vehicle is entering the City. The system additionally serves detectives in their investigations after a crime has been committed with potential suspect information that would otherwise not exist. This purchase will expand the program from the previously authorized 9 ALPR cameras to 21 which includes 3 that were authorized through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. This system will enhance the abilities of officers to more effectively accomplish their duties on the street. Additionally, Flock Safety offers detailed search capabilities to further enhance the ability of criminal investigations after a crime has been committed.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The City of North Richland Hills has previously purchased and implemented 9 ALPR camera systems from Flock Safety. The primary purpose of the ALPR system is to assist in the detection and apprehension of stolen or known suspicious vehicles, including vehicles associated with persons wanted for criminal activity traveling in the City.

The purchase of 12 additional ALPR cameras will further assist patrol and criminal investigations in their development of leads which aid in the identification of suspects who have committed crimes that are under investigation. This system additionally creates the ability for officers to collaborate information with other jurisdictions, such as Fort Worth, that use the same system.

The addition of Flock Safety's Advanced Search will allow patrol and criminal investigations to conduct a vehicle search even without a license plate number. The software package includes the ability to upload any digital image (i.e. Ring doorbell, cell phone photograph, etc.) to conduct a detailed search for similar vehicles. The software



can also identify vehicles traveling together to help locate other accomplices in organized criminal activity and can help connect crimes across different locations to a common suspect vehicle.

The cost of this program was approved within the current budget at \$74,700. Funding for this project is coming from multiple sources including, \$63,700 within the Traffic Safety Fund, \$2,750 from Federal Seized Funds, \$7,765 from grant-funded awards and \$485 carried over from the previous year's General Fund. Additional expenses are anticipated for Flock Safety services such as a May 2023 camera renewal, adjusting camera locations and adding additional cameras to address changing crime trends that could occur throughout the year. The known expenditures to date are \$60,750.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the sole source purchase of 12 additional pole-mounted Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras and the subscription renewal for 9 existing ALPR cameras from FLOCK Safety, Inc, not to exceed the amount of \$74,700.