

# COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

From: The Office of the City Manager

Date: 11-13-2017

Subject: Consider Resolution No. 2017-043, authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Watchguard, Inc., for the body and vehicle camera systems project for the Police Department in the amount of \$579,393.

Presenter: Mike Young

## Summary:

The City Council is being asked to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Watchguard, Inc. ("Watchguard") for the acquisition of an integrated officer body and vehicle camera system in the amount of \$579,393. This new camera system will provide a permanent issue body camera to all necessary personnel and replace vehicle cameras in all frontline law enforcement vehicles. This new system replaces the current L3 camera system for police personnel and marshal staff for the City of North Richland Hills ("city"), which was purchased in 2008, and has since reached the end of life cycle for this type of equipment.

## General Description:

On December 20, 2016 the city hired SCIENS Consulting Firm to assist in the selection of the best body and vehicle camera system for the City of North Richland Hills to help create an effective request for proposal and assist with narrowing the scope to the most qualified vendors with the best products available on the market. This process involved studying staff expectations in the Police and Information Technology Departments along with a thorough examination of product abilities throughout the business market.

On February 17, 2017, the city issued Request for Proposal #17-007 for an Integrated Body Worn and In-Car Camera System. The desired goal was to obtain a system that served as a fully-integrated system and a high level of ability to maintain, access and store all video data subsequently created from system usage across the department. The vender qualifications would have a high level of experience in service and maintenance, performance, implementation, financing, and pricing.

On March 16, 2017, five companies submitted their bids, which were narrowed to three through a steering committee and SCIENS Consultants. Ultimately, Watchguard was determined to be the best camera system option once the final pricing of the systems were factored in to the overall purchase and needs of the department. As set forth in the contract with Watchguard, the city will receive 127 body cameras and 42 vehicle camera systems along with all necessary supporting infrastructure to maintain all video data necessary for police operations. The backbone server will consist of 24 separate disks holding eight terabytes of data making a total server space allocation of 192 terabytes. This complete system will have total maintenance coverage from Watchguard for a period of five years from the date of purchase.

Watchguard has been in business for 15 years and currently services more than 1,000 Texas agencies to include the Texas Department of Public Safety. Watchguard is based in Allen, Texas with their sole business revenue model being body and vehicle camera systems, which makes them well suited to service the needs of the City of North Richland Hills.

The approved FY 2017/2018 CIP budget includes Project #IS1702 for Public Safety Technology. Additionally, the Criminal Justice Division of the Texas Governor's Office selected the police department for a Body-Worn Camera grant in the amount of \$94,771.25 with 20% match. Grant funds in the amount \$75,817.00 will help fund 74 of the needed body cameras along with requisite video storage needs. The CIP project will cover the remainder of the camera systems cost (\$503,576) and consultants' fee (\$40,775) along with other computer related technology included in a separate agenda item.

Recommendation:

Approve Resolution No. 2017-043.