



## CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** The Office of the City Manager     **DATE:** May 13, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the purchase of tactical negotiator crisis communications equipment from 836 Technologies Corporation, All Mobile Video, Inc., (AMV), and other authorized vendors in the combined amount of \$70,071.

**PRESENTER:** Rick Scott, Assistant Chief of Police

### **SUMMARY:**

The Criminal Justice Division of the Texas Governor's Office has notified the Police Department that a maximum amount of \$55,008 has been awarded to the City of North Richland Hills under the Justice Assistance Grant Program #3568701. The grant funds have been authorized for the department's purchase of hostage negotiation and tactical communications equipment designed specifically for critical incident negotiations and management. The system provides communications and overall situational awareness to aid negotiations and to ensure interconnectivity between field deployed resources during a crisis situation.

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The acquisition of hostage negotiation and tactical communications equipment provides a solution to three key issues: 1) enhanced officer safety as units in the field are not relaying information to command over the radio; 2) a platform for de-escalation techniques while communicating with subjects in crisis; and 3) the ability for command to access video/audio information in real-time for a more comprehensive overview of the situation.

The video phone provides direct, two way, communication with the subject in crisis as well as additional tools to collect and log event activity. The CINT Commander II system allows communication via landline, cell phone, or tactical phones to negotiate with the person(s) in crisis, and then networks the information for up to 50 users. The accelerated streaming processor allows the negotiation team and command personnel real-time, shared access to the numerous audio and video feeds deployed at the scene. At the conclusion of an event, the incident logs and recordings can be transferred to any type of storage media for evidence retention. This new system will replace the current negotiation system that has grown out-of-date and has no basic cellular capabilities.



Staff is requesting authorization to purchase the 836 Tactical Video Phone and the CINT Commander II system from 836 Technologies in the amount of \$27,424. The vendor is a sole-source provider for this system, and it is only available for purchase to military and government agencies. Staff is also requesting authorization to purchase the interconnect streaming equipment (hardware) from AMV, a sole-source provider, in the amount of \$21,425. The purchase of accompanying components and the installation needed to complete the project for the mobile command center will utilize authorized vendors available through cooperative purchasing programs or competitive bidding for a not to exceed price of \$21,222.

The total estimated cost for this project is \$70,071, with \$55,008 funded through Grant #3568701 previously awarded by the Texas Governor's Office Criminal Justice Division and \$15,063 from the police department's approved General Fund budget (001-8001-531.74-05).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the purchase of tactical negotiator crisis communications equipment from 836 Technologies Corporation, All Mobile Video, Inc., and other authorized vendors in the combined amount of \$70,071.