

Council Meeting
August 14, 2012

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the City Council:

SUBJECT: Police - Appropriate and allocate asset forfeiture funds and approve purchase of Mobile Data Computers. Expenditure: \$336,257.82

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Chief of Police and the Information Technology Director that City Council appropriate and allocate \$336,257.82 of asset forfeiture funds and approve the purchase of sixty (60) Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) for Police vehicles from RoboVu, of Phoenix, AZ.

FUNDING

Funds are available in the Unappropriated Department of Homeland Security Asset Forfeiture Account (Fund 2916).

BACKGROUND

The current MDCs used by our field personnel were manufactured by RoboVu. These MDCs have been in service since 2006 and are out of warranty. A recent systems audit by Information Technology personnel found a variety of problems with the current MDCs, including missing keyboard buttons and malfunctioning mice. The most common issue, affecting more than half of the MDCs, is problems with malfunctioning or non-working touchscreens. Based on the fact that these MDCs have long outlived their useful service life, Information Technology personnel conducted research to identify a replacement.

ANALYSIS

The current RoboVu JLT model is an "all-in-one" unit that is mounted near the dashboard of the vehicle, versus a trunk-mounted computer with the monitor mounted near the dash. The "all-in-one" system works well, with a low failure rate that is partly due to a simpler wiring configuration; there is no need to run wires from a computer in the trunk to a monitor in the passenger compartment. Further, problems are easier to troubleshoot in an "all-in-one" component than in separate trunk-mounted and dash-mounted hardware and system wiring.

Section 22.3.19 of the City of Torrance Municipal Code states: "Exception; Computer and Networking Hardware and Software Purchases. The provisions of this Article do not apply to contracts for the purchase of computer and networking hardware and software. The purchase

of computer and networking hardware and software will be done pursuant to regulations and procedures established by the City Manager.”

Staff invited four companies, Data 911, Coban, Datalux, and RoboVu, to conduct demonstrations of their latest technology and to provided price quotes for their products. The City received the following quotes:

Vendor	Type of Product	Total Price for 60 Units Including Sales Tax and Shipping
RoboVu.com Phoenix, AZ	“All in One”	\$ 336,257.82
Datalux Corporation Winchester, Virginia	“All in One”	\$ 390,885.00
Data 911 Hubb Systems LLC Alameda, CA	Trunk-Mounted Computers with Dashboard Mounted Monitors	\$ 367,331.40
Coban Technologies, Inc. Stafford, TX	Trunk-Mounted Computers with Dashboard Mounted Monitors	\$ 407,197.50

RoboVu and Datalux are similar in operation and specifications. RoboVu provides a newer processor (i7 vs. i5 or Core 2 Duo) as well as more RAM (4Gb vs. 1 or 2 Gb). RoboVu offered a buyback program for our current MDCs and savings for using the current mounts instead of buying new ones. Staying with RoboVu will also reduce the need for officer training, as the new model operates similarly to the old model. Further, training for Information Technology and Fleet Services staff is minimal, as new model installation is similar to the current model.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. NEU
Chief of Police



By: Lieutenant Thomas C. Stark
Communications Division Commander

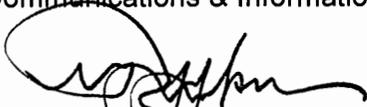
CONCUR:



John J. Neu (For)
Chief of Police



Richard Shigaki
Communications & Information Technology Director



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager