



# CITY of NOVI CITY COUNCIL

[www.cityofnovi.org](http://www.cityofnovi.org)

**Agenda Item 9  
September 24, 2007**

**SUBJECT:** Approval to purchase the necessary hardware through the Michigan Master Computing Contract (MMCC) for a not to exceed sum of \$67,105, and the Visionhawk software through IPT utilizing their Federal GSA contract (GS-07F-9906H) at the contract price of \$189,753 for the implementation of the digital in-car camera system for a total of \$256,858 using Federal Drug Asset Forfeiture Funds.

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** Police Department

**CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:** *AA for CJP*

<b>EXPENDITURE REQUIRED</b>	<b>\$ 256,858</b>
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	<b>\$ 304,146 (Federal Forfeiture Funds)</b>
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>\$ 256,858</b>
<b>LINE ITEM NUMBER</b>	<b>266-266-00-986.000</b>

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since August 2001, the Uniform Patrol Division has been operating a first generation in-car camera system, which utilizes analog videocassette recordings (VCR). Analog recordings store video signals for playback using magnetic tape. The current system fails to meet the needs of the police department due to its constant use and age. Problems associated with the current system include poor audio and video quality, in addition to patrol vehicles being out of service due to camera malfunctions. The existing system is so antiquated that finding parts to replace and repair it has become increasingly difficult and costly. As a result, funding in the amount of \$304,146 was included in the FY 2007/2008 budget for replacement of this system. Federal Forfeiture funds will be used for this purchase.

Since the current system was purchased, there have been a number of technological advances for in-car camera systems in the market. Specifically, analog systems are being replaced with digital systems of much higher quality and reliability. Digital technology allows for easier and quicker access to recordings, review of those recordings via in-house networks, and wireless transfer of the recorded data to servers. Digital systems also reduce the staff time required to process and copy events.

Police and information technology personnel have reviewed options for the digital in-car camera systems and concluded that the Visionhawk System manufactured by the International Police Technologies (IPT) is the only system that fulfills all of the functionality the City requires at this time. The functionality includes:

- Wireless microphone technology;
- Simultaneous recordings of audio transmissions from multiple transmitters to a single in-car system; and
- The ability to monitor audio transmissions between officers in addition to all of the other standard features of such systems.

Similar systems without these features were found to be in the same or higher price range. Staff researched and reviewed eight other vendors and concluded that the Visionhawk System best meets the needs of the Police Department at this time.

This system is available for purchase through the Federal General Services Administration (GSA) contract. As a result, staff recommends waiving the City's standard purchasing/bid process to purchase the Visionhawk System through the GSA contract. The City's purchasing policy allows for this type of contract when collaboratively purchased with other governmental entities.

It is recommended that City Council authorize the purchase of the in-car camera system through IPT utilizing their Federal GSA contract (GS-07F-9906H) at the contract price of \$189,753. This cost includes (25) in-car camera units, associated software, wireless transfer equipment, installation and training, as well as the removal of the current VCR system.

In addition, it is requested that City Council authorize the purchase of the required server, work stations, firewalls, and other pertinent hardware through the Michigan Master Computing Contract (MMCC) for a not to exceed sum of \$67,105. Total project cost is \$256,858.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approval to purchase the necessary hardware through the Michigan Master Computing Contract (MMCC) for a not to exceed sum of \$67,105, and the Visionhawk software through IPT utilizing their Federal GSA contract (GS-07F-9906H) at the contract price of \$189,753 for the implementation of the digital in-car camera system for a total of \$256,858 using Federal Drug Asset Forfeiture Funds.

	1	2	Y	N
Mayor Landry				
Mayor Pro Tem Capello				
Council Member Gatt				
Council Member Margolis				

	1	2	Y	N
Council Member Mutch				
Council Member Nagy				
Council Member Paul				



www.novipolice.org

## NOVI POLICE DEPARTMENT

**David E. Molloy**  
*Chief of Police*

**Thomas C. Lindberg**  
*Deputy Chief*

Administration  
(248) 347-0504  
(248) 347-0590 Fax

Communications  
(248) 347-0575  
(248) 347-0526 Fax  
(248) 348-7199 TDD

Investigations  
(248) 347-0530  
(248) 347-0570 Fax

Records  
(248) 347-0510  
(248) 347-0570 Fax

Uniform Patrol  
(248) 348-7100  
(248) 347-0526 Fax

45125 W. Ten Mile  
Novi, MI 48375  
(248) 348-7100  
(248) 347-0570 Fax

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Clay J. Pearson, City Manager  
**FROM:** David E. Molloy, Chief of Police *DEM*  
**DATE:** September 13, 2007  
**SUBJECT:** Purchase of Digital In-Car Video System – Bid Waiver

According to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), in-car camera systems have improved public confidence and perception in the police profession by enhancing the ability to capture and convict violators, record inappropriate police behavior, reduce liability, and provide valuable data in our efforts to ensure homeland security.

Since August 2001, the Uniform Patrol Division has been operating a first generation in-car camera system which utilizes analog videocassette recordings (VCR). Analog recordings store video signals for playback using magnetic tape. Our current system is failing to meet the needs of the police department due to its constant use and age. Problems associated with the current system include poor audio and video quality, and patrol vehicles being out of service due to camera malfunctions. The existing system is so antiquated that finding parts to replace and repair has become increasingly difficult and costly.

The police department has conducted research regarding the newest technological advances for in-car camera systems on the market today. This research has determined that the department's current video recording system should be replaced with a digital system. This upgrade to digital technology will allow for easier and quicker access to recordings, review of those recordings via an in-house network, and wireless transfer of the recorded data to a server. The digital system will not only provide a much higher recording quality, but will also reduce the staff time required to process and copy tapes.

Of the many digital recording systems reviewed, it was determined that the Visionhawk System, manufactured by International Police Technologies (IPT), best fits the department's needs and has the highest quality and reliability. Research included demonstrations by various manufacturers of both in-car camera equipment and the management software, interviews with the users of the various systems, and on-site visits at locations where the technology is in place. The Visionhawk System was found to be more user friendly, easier to learn and manage, and had the highest degree of customer satisfaction.



The Visionhawk System also has technological features not available on other systems such as the capability to simultaneously record audio transmissions from multiple transmitters, and the ability of officers to monitor audio transmissions between themselves and other officers.

### **Financial Considerations**

Funding in the amount of \$304,146 was approved in the FY 2007/2008 adopted budget for the purpose of purchasing a digital in-car camera system for the Novi Police Department. Federal Forfeiture Funds was identified as the source for this purpose.

International Police Technologies currently holds a Federal General Services Administration (GSA) contract (GS-07F-9906H) for this equipment with a contract ending date of March 31, 2008.

On September 12, 2007 a quote was received from IPT, utilizing the GSA Federal contract, for (25) twenty-five in-car camera systems for patrol vehicles at a cost of \$189,753.

In addition, leveraging against the Michigan Master Computing Contract (MMCC), we will be purchasing the required server, work stations, firewalls, and other pertinent hardware for \$67,105.00.

The total project cost is \$256,858.00.

### **Cooperative Purchasing Agreements**

Since Federal bidding regulations are different than the City's, each time the GSA pricing is offered, city management requests a bid waiver if federal pricing is being extended by the contract holder. In this case, IPT is the GSA contract holder. Finance Director Kathy Smith-Roy has reviewed all components of this purchase and is in agreement that this process meets our established purchasing guidelines.

### **Five Year Goals – 2007**

Development of this project aligns with two of City Council's Five Year Goals. The digital in-car camera system meets the goal of implementing updated technology infrastructure. In addition, this system addresses facility and resource needs to ensure public safety services meet the needs of the community by providing higher quality and enhanced reliability of police contacts with members of the general public.

### **Action Requested**

I respectfully request that City Council authorize the purchase of the in-car camera system through International Police Technology (IPT), utilizing their Federal GSA contract (GS-07F-9906H) at the contract price of \$189,753. This cost includes the (25) in-car units, associated software, wireless transfer equipment, installation and training, as well as the removal of the current VCR system.

Additionally we request that City Council authorize the purchase of the required server, work stations, firewalls, and other pertinent hardware through the Michigan Master Computing Contract (MMCC) for a not to exceed sum of \$67,105.