



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: November 20, 2012

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Chief's Staff, Police Department

SUBJECT: Police Mobile Data Computer (MDC) Upgrade Project

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Find it in the City's best interest to waive the formal bid process as authorized by Municipal Code 4.52.070 (L), and authorize the City General Services Manager to issue a Purchase Order to Data 911 in the amount of \$129,944 for the purchase of the Police Mobile Data Computer Hardware;
- B. Find it in the City's best interest to waive the formal bid process as authorized by Municipal Code 4.52.070 (L), and authorize the City General Services Manager to issue a Purchase Order to In Motion Technology in the amount of \$82,481 for the purchase of a Police Mobile Routers; and
- C. Appropriate \$212,425 in the Vehicle Replacement Fund from reserves accumulated from Police and Fire Department contributions designated to support mobile technologies and upgrades.

DISCUSSION:

The Mobile Data Computer (MDC) was first introduced to the Santa Barbara Police Department in 1995, and over the years there have been different versions of MDCs deployed. In 2007, after an exhaustive pilot test program that included five participating MDC vendors, the Police Department chose and implemented Data 911's MDC solution.

Data 911 has provided the Police Department with reliable mobile computers and excellent customer service over the past of five years. Using Data 911's MDC solution has enabled the extension of the Police Department's network infrastructure to patrol cars and provided mobile computer support that is critical to officers in the field. Based on the reliability of Data 911's MDC and current operational use, the Police Department recommends upgrading its end-of-life-cycle MDCs (five year cycle) to the latest Data 911 MDC. This upgrade is an "In-Place Upgrade" that will have no impact on operational use because all hardware peripherals will remain the same, including keyboards, touch screen monitors and mounting hardware. More importantly, upgrading to Data 911's latest computer will allow the Police Department to use their

most current mobile hardware technologies and address future software requirements, as needed.

One of the critical pieces to providing mobile computing is the “modem” hardware that connects the MDC to the Police Department’s network through wireless cellular technology. Upgrading the modem hardware enables staff to leverage current hardware technologies and support future capabilities without the need to continually upgrade the modems as new technologies are implemented.

In August of this year, the Police Department invited the current modem vendor, Sierra Wireless, along with Utility Solutions and In Motion Technology to participate in a side-by-side pilot test program of their latest modems. Each vendor installed its modem in patrol vehicles for a period of two weeks and staff performed an analysis and testing focused on areas of connectivity and backend services. The study concluded that In Motion Technology was the best-in-class product for data throughput and persistent connection to the network. In addition, In Motion provided the best operational support by providing additional vehicle location reports to allow staff to view patrol vehicles as they traverse the City. This is accomplished by In Motion’s integrated mapping solution, which is completely independent of the MDC and provides a greater level of officer safety in the event that the MDC malfunctions. Furthermore, In Motion has the ability to connect to any wireless cellular carrier such as AT&T, Sprint or Verizon, allowing staff to research and select the best mobile network service.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total cost of \$212,425 for the purchase and installation of MDCs will be funded from reserves in the Vehicle Replacement Fund. These funds have been accumulated through contributions from the Police and Fire Departments specifically to support mobile technologies and upgrades. The Police Department currently contributes 60% of the total MDC Funds.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The Data911 component solution is designed specifically to enable replacement of only the components requiring upgrade, leaving other components (monitors & keyboards) in place for their longer life cycle or at the discretion of the customer. In keeping with the City’s sustainability program, existing MDC equipment removed from police vehicles will be recycled for parts.

PREPARED BY: Dennis Diaz, Police Information Technology Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Camerino Sanchez, Chief of Police

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office