

## Item 23-1130: Police Department Sole Source Request for Flock Safety ALPR Cameras Safety and Licensing Committee

Wed, Sep 27, 2023 5:30PM

### **Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 00:54**

We have no public hearings or appearances which brings us into our first action item 23-1130 Police Departments sole source requests for flock safety ALPR cameras.

### **Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 01:07**

Move for approval.

### **Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 01:08**

Second.

### **Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 01:09**

There's a motion to approve and a second. Staff, would you care to comment? Director One. You're good?

### **Police Chief Polly Olson 01:17**

Yeah, thank you. So, over the past year, our agency has been participating in a pilot program that added flock safety ALPR cameras at 29 different locations throughout the city. During this pilot, our agency has experienced tremendous success with the cameras. It's my belief that our continued partnership with Flock will enhance the safety of our citizens and allow us to continue to solve crimes that would otherwise go likely unsolved.

### **Police Chief Polly Olson 01:47**

The prorated amount for the flock cameras for 2023 is \$36,150. I can break down where we found that money within our budget to pay for that \$36,000 if you would like. There's definitely other ALPR systems that are out there, but there's really none out there that integrate directly with axon or evidence.com, which are the other systems, as you know, we already have at our police department, and most other agencies nationwide are also using flock so it further leverages our investigative capabilities. In addition, there's many agencies within Northeast Wisconsin surrounding the city of Appleton that already have flock cameras in place as well across the state. And the system is one where you can share information across all of the subscribers of flock. So, it really just does enhance our abilities to get leads in crimes that we wouldn't otherwise ever get a lead in and bring, hopefully some closure and justice to people that find themselves victim of a crime. In addition, their support staff has been exceptionally responsive to many of our unique requests that we've submitted, and they're really willing to work with us as a law enforcement consumer.

### **Police Chief Polly Olson 03:11**

So, after the evaluation of our pilot program, I'm proposing that the city maintain service to 19 out of the 29 stationary cameras that were included in our pilot. We've also added a mobile camera that has been placed on our existing speed trailer. The mobile camera has been deployed throughout the city to address high crime areas, or we've had it positioned near special events. The proposal is based on the volume of successes that we have tracked with individual cameras and the necessity of maintaining coverage of major entry exit points to the city of Appleton.

**Police Chief Polly Olson 03:46**

The cost of the proposal to maintain the 19 cameras is \$54,000. In order to account for the \$54,000 for our budget moving into next year, we are anticipating about a \$5,000 increase in revenue with some restructuring over false alarms that you will see in front of you within the next month or two. We're going to have some reductions in some of our expenses—\$7,000 for Narcan because we found a way to receive it through state program. We've reduced our Taser supplies by about \$3,000, and that's due to some replacements that are happening again next year with some of our cartridges and things like that. We are discontinuing our leads online contract, and that's a contract that we use in collaboration with some of the area pawn shops so that if somebody is pawning, you know, items—it's basically a database. We're looking for some other options to still get some kind of service, but the cost of that program has gone up significantly as well, and so we just I did that we're going to discontinue that contract. Tuition fees—we do tuition reimbursement for our employees. And based on the current trend that we have, we have about \$1,900 that we think we can reduce that budget line item by, and we're reducing our employee recruitment and career fairs travel by about \$1500. And I can go on. We basically—as you can see, we literally went item by item line item in our budget and reduced where we could to come up with the \$54,000 needed because we feel like this is just a critical safety item that we need for our police department.

**Police Chief Polly Olson 05:41**

So, when we ran some numbers, from about 5/1 of 2022 through 7/25 of '23, we've had at least 183 verified successes, which can be found from reports and other documentation with the flock cameras included, including solving 30 hit and runs, 22 retail thefts, five domestic violence arrests. We've had 19 major crimes—so burglaries, weapons complaints, and frauds. 30 stolen vehicles recovered and 4 stolen license plates recovered.

**Police Chief Polly Olson 06:13**

Two major incidences, or what I would consider solves using flock that might not have been solved, included on April 14. You might remember the shots fired call we had up on Linwood drive, and the we had multiple shell casings that were located in the roadway spanning several blocks. Without the Flock cameras, it's really unlikely that we would have ever identified the suspect vehicle, and it helped us locate the vehicle within a few hours of the beginning of that incident. The vehicle and driver we—were eventually located in charged with second degree recklessly endangering safety, disorderly conduct, and discharging a firearm from a vehicle.

**Police Chief Polly Olson 06:53**

And then on July 2 of this year, we had a burglary to Expert Jewelry Repair, which is right in the downtown area. Our officers responded to an alarm there and found a burglary that had occurred at the business. Traffic cameras that we have showed a suspect vehicle driving to or from the business. But again, without the license plates, being able to be identified through the Flock system—that is how we immediately were able to produce a suspect vehicle. The vehicle was located a few blocks away and impounded shortly thereafter.

**Police Chief Polly Olson 07:26**

And just to make it clear, these cameras are not used for routine traffic enforcement. We don't receive any sort of notifications if we have somebody driving through the cameras with, say an expired registration, or things of that nature. They can't be used for any kind of speed enforcement, so if that's, you know, what's being heard out there, that, in fact is not a thing. The most common traffic enforcement, we do use them for just are hit and run investigations that I've referenced previously and identifying vehicles that may flee from officers. They're most commonly used as an after the fact in fact investigative tool, where we're essentially looking at vehicle information pertaining to a specific investigation and responding to say hotlist alerts from the National Crime Information Center database, which is mostly for, say, stolen felony involved vehicles, missing persons, and things of that nature. So, I'm happy to entertain any questions that you might have regarding this.

**Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 08:29**

Okay, go ahead. Alderman Siebers.

**Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 08:31**

Are you requesting money for this year?

**Police Chief Polly Olson 08:34**

We have all the money accounted for.

**Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 08:36**

Okay, so, okay.

**Police Chief Polly Olson 08:39**

So basically, it's over \$25,000, and that is why I'm bringing it to your attention.

**Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 08:47**

Okay, for this year,

**Police Chief Polly Olson 08:49**

For this year and—

**Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 08:51**

Then next year?

**Police Chief Polly Olson 08:51**

—obviously, you're going to see it in our budget for next year, but it's going to be a reallocation of other existing funds. I did try to put it through as a supplement, but it was not added in just because of, obviously, the tight budget that you are all aware of. So, we were able to look for other ways to fund it, which I ran down.

**Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 09:14**

And the request next year is going to be how much?

**Police Chief Polly Olson 09:17**

It's going to be \$54,000 operationally for us to continue with the 19 cameras that we would like to continue with.

**Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 09:25**

Can you explain the differences in regards to what you're asking for now, and...?

**Police Chief Polly Olson 09:30**

Yeah, so basically, the money that I'm asking for now or the reallocation is like \$36,000, and that's a prorated amount, which is why it's less than what the \$54,000 is for next year, even though we had more cameras. Basically, the trial ended in about May of '23. And so, they prorated then for that time period through the rest of this year, which accounted for the lower dollar amount.

**Alderman Alex Schultz (District 9) 10:00**

Thank you. Just I have a couple. First this—on behalf of the community, I show our gratitude for, you know, digging around in the budget and trying to find ways to fund this. One question is, I guess, the trial period at 29 cameras, are those placed with a sense that you were you were gonna whittle that down to the effective ones, and that the trial period was essentially trying to figure out where they're most effective, and then bring it down to like, a medium number of these cameras, or was there some other means of whittling down 29 to 19? I guess I'm curious to know, why the reduction from the trial period?

**Police Chief Polly Olson 10:36**

Yeah, so essentially, it was just really being reasonable about what we could afford. If we could afford 29 or more, you know, I obviously think more is going to be better. We'll continue to look for ways to add cameras as we move down, you know, the road, but just being fiscally responsible. So, we took a look at the 29 cameras that we worked with Flock to strategically place certainly around the city trying to get as best coverage as we could with, again, looking at the entry and exit points throughout the city and through certain parts of the city. And then after looking at the data on what we were able to collect from those and the crimes that we're able to solve, then we've picked basically the top 19 that we figured would be the best ones, we could.

**Alderman Alex Schultz (District 9) 11:26**

Thank you. And do the cameras work in the sense that they're recording every license plate, and there's basically a clearinghouse of all that information, and then when you go into the search for something specific it's going through and accessing that database?

**Police Chief Polly Olson 11:38**

That's correct. And you have to have specific reasons to go in there to search for something. It's not like anybody can just search for any random vehicles. It documents. There's audit trails. There's all those checks and balances put in place.

**Alderman Alex Schultz (District 9) 11:54**

Thank you. Anything else from committee? Yes, Alder Van Zeeland.

**Alderman Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 11:58**

Thank you. I saw an article recently, and when I went to look for it today, I couldn't find it that said that the Flock cameras were used to catch someone who had come from Neenah Menasha through Appleton and I think too Little Chute. So, you know, typically, we've been sort of saying we're going to be stingy with stole sole sourcing, at some point, but in this instance with how connected we are with our neighbors, I think it's really important that we move forward with this. Thank you.

**Alderman Alex Schultz (District 9) 12:36**

Any other questions from committee? Anything else from staff, from legal, anything? Okay. There's a motion on the table. All those in favor say aye. Aye. Opposed? Carries four zero.