

**Memorandum**  
**Police Department**  
**Finance Department**

**TO:** John T. Lockerby, Village Manager  
**FROM:** [Redacted]  
Brian Baker, Police Chief  
[Redacted]  
Michael Aleksic, Assistant Finance Director

**DATE:** September 12, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item – Automated License Plate Reader Cameras

**Background:**

As law enforcement technology has progressed over the past decade, the Police Department has added equipment, software and systems which have greatly increased its capabilities in numerous areas of responsibility. In recent years major advances in Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology have been made. Since vehicle use in the commission of a crime is common, ALPR technology has become a critical and effective tool in both the prevention and investigation of crime.

In pursuit of obtaining this valuable technology, the Skokie Police Department applied for an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant through Cook County and was awarded \$63,000 for the purchase of fixed ALPR technology. This technology is comprised of stationary, pole-mounted cameras along selected roadways. The cameras collect and record objective information about passing vehicles and deposits this data in a secure searchable database.

**Recommendation:**

Staff is recommending that a contract for the purchase and installation of twelve Falcon Cameras be awarded to Flock Group Inc., the sole provider of the Flock Safety ALPR System, in the amount of \$66,600. Funding for the purchase is being provided by a \$63,000 UASI Grant, with the balance of \$3,600 coming out of the Police Department’s Mobile Public Surveillance System budget.

The purchase includes the provision and installation of twelve Falcon pole-mounted cameras, maintenance, data, security and customer service.

**Comments:**

The Falcon ALPR cameras are mounted on poles along roadways and operate twenty-four hours a day. The cameras collect objective vehicle information such as license plate, vehicle color, body type and distinguishing features. The data is fully encrypted and stored in the cloud, where it is searchable on a rolling thirty day basis. The system also

provides the Police Department with alerts if the license plate matches an entry in the computerized hot files (i.e. stolen, wanted) of the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS). The system does not collect any biometrics, facial recognition data, or images of any occupant(s), and the cameras are not used for traffic enforcement. Data is only stored for thirty days and is 100% owned and controlled by the Skokie PD.

The Axon Fleet 3 squad car camera system, approved by the Board in May of this year, operates on the same Flock Safety technology and will integrate together on the system in the future.

ALPR technology is currently being utilized by the Illinois State Police and numerous other jurisdictions throughout the state and nation. Nearly every jurisdiction in the immediate area is already in possession of the technology or is in the process of acquiring it. This includes Morton Grove, Niles, Wilmette, Glenview, Evanston and Lincolnwood. Tapping into this rapidly growing network of data is a force multiplier that will have a dramatic effect on Skokie PD's ability to prevent and solve crimes.

This technology is also being purchased and leveraged by private entities as well. Old Orchard Mall is actively pursuing adding ALPR technology to their property, as is the Illinois Holocaust Museum.

Cc: Nicholas Wyatt, Assistant Village Manager  
Jesse Barnes, Deputy Police Chief  
Michael Aleksic, Assistant Finance Director