



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs, Request for Authorization to Accept Grant Funds in the amount of \$17,592 to be used to Procure Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) Equipment.

1. Motion to Accept Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) 2023 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds and authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute the necessary agreements, certification, and other documents required to accept the Grant.
2. Resolution to dispense with competitive bidding and authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into an agreement with Flock Group, Inc. for the procurement of ALPR equipment in an amount not to exceed \$18,450.
3. Resolution to Appropriate \$17,592 in BJA FY2023 Local JAG Program Grant funds.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Consent Calendar

Approved for October 24, 2023 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Glendale Police Department requests acceptance of \$17,592 in grant funds from the BJA FY2023 JAG Grant Program for the grant period of October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2024 to procure ALPR equipment.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the motion to authorize participation in the BJA FY2023 JAG Grant Program and accept funds in the amount of \$17,592; adopt the resolution dispensing with competitive bidding, and authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute an agreement with Flock Group, Inc. to procure ALPR equipment; and adopt the attached resolution of appropriation.

BACKGROUND

The Police Department has previously purchased and successfully implemented ALPR systems. ALPR technology consists of mounted cameras which digitally process photographs of license plates and queries those plates against multiple state and federal law enforcement databases. Sharing the information through the databases among agencies, or system interoperability, is a critical component in the success of the ALPR units as a force multiplier and one of the major reasons the Los Angeles County Police Chief's Association (LAPCA) has strongly supported the acquisition of this technology through grant programs. The cameras connect to the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) hot list and are Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) compliant. Through these resources, the Police Department is able use hot plate alerts, create custom alerts, and search footage to access evidence to assist with ongoing investigations as the majority of crime occurs with the use of a vehicle.

The Glendale Police Department has adopted strict policies governing the use of the equipment and access to ALPR data. The images are not used to track the whereabouts of individuals or their vehicles or any occupants. The system can however be programmed to alert passing officers to the presence of a wanted vehicle. The license plate information is anonymous and is generalized in a data base that can later be searched with cause by plate number. The value of detecting wanted vehicles and suspects, as well as those on nationwide terrorism watch and want lists, by far outweigh concerns for collection of the anonymous data. The data is collected in open/plain public view and in public places with no expectation of privacy of one's legally required license plate. By collecting this anonymous data (easily gathered by the average consumer with a smartphone or the police officer jotting it down on a pad), technology improves a process used by law enforcement agencies for decades by replacing the manual typing process to run license plates to an automated system that helps police immediately identify a criminal suspect's vehicle. The ALPR system has enabled law enforcement to capture innumerable wanted vehicles and suspects since its inception.

The Police Department implemented the use of Flock ALPR cameras in April 2020 and has been successful at recovering stolen vehicles and locating vehicles wanted in connection to robberies, violent assaults, murder, and flash mob burglaries using this technology. These cameras are solar powered, self-contained and can be mounted on power poles, light poles, or other fixtures. Although mounted, they can be easily relocated

giving the Police Department and the community a valuable tool to address safety issues throughout the city.

ANALYSIS

Due to the Glendale Police Department's success utilizing Flock ALPRs to locate vehicles connected to suspects wanted for property and violent crimes, including robberies, homicides, flash mob burglaries the Department submitted a grant application to the DOJ Office of Justice Programs for ALPR cameras. Flock ALPRs have many benefits specifically aimed to reduce property and violent crimes in the community. The equipment uses technology to read license plates and run them through NCIC Alerts, is CJIS compliant, and can be searched against NCIC Hot Lists. This technology is a force multiplier for real time proactive policing as well as a database for investigative leads. The three new Flock ALPR cameras to be procured with the grant funds will increase the number of readers to thirty-one. The equipment will be positioned in strategic locations within our city borders to capture data that will be used to solve crimes.

The grant award period is from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2024 and the funds will be used to procure three cameras on a two-year subscription. The grant will cover the installation fee and the majority of the two-year subscription. The remainder of the subscription, at the cost of \$858, will be funded by the Glendale Police Department's general fund.

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

The following community organizations have expressed an interest in this crime solving effort:

- College Hills Association
- Royal Canyon Property Owner's Association
- Chevy Oaks Homeowners Association
- Chevy Chase Estates Association
- Adams Hills Neighborhood Association
- Fair Oaks Homeowners Association
- Whiting Woods Property Owners Inc.
- Glenwood Oaks
- Americana at Brand
- Glendale Galleria
- Individual Community Members

The Police Department utilized the following methods for community outreach:

- Neighborhood Watch Meetings
- Neighborhood Watch Block Captain Meetings
- Property Owners Association Meetings
- Community Academy

- Community Gatherings and Events i.e., Coffee with a Cop, Shields on the Fields, National Night Out

FISCAL IMPACT

The ALPR equipment will cost \$18,450, which will be funded by the Glendale Police Department's general fund and the FY2023 JAG grant. The Police Department's FY2023-24 budget can absorb the cost applicable to the general fund. The funding is outlined below:

Existing Appropriation		
Amount	From (Accounting String)	Funding Source
\$858	GL: 45150-1010-GPD-7000-P6301 PL: N/A	General Fund

The FY2023 JAG Program grant award is \$17,592 which was not included as part of the FY2023-24 approved budget. The grant does not require matching funds. Therefore, staff is requesting for an appropriation of \$17,592 from grant revenue. The appropriation request is outlined below:

Requesting Appropriation			
Amount	From (Account String)	To (Account String)	Funding Source
\$17,592	GL: 31240-2610-GPD-0020-P0000 PL: GPD01107AG	GL: 45150-2610-GPD-0020-P0000 PL: GPD01107AG	Police Fund – Federal Grant

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)

This item is considered a ministerial activity and therefore not subject to CEQA/NEPA review. There is no possibility that the acceptance of this award may have a significant effect on the environment. (14 Cal. Code Regs. §15601(b)(3))

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

The names and business addresses of the members of the board of directors, the chairperson, CEO, COO, CFO, Subcontractors and any person or entity with more than 10% interest in the company proposed for contract in this Agenda Item Report are attached in Exhibit #, in accordance with the City Campaign Finance Ordinance No. 5744.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Approve as requested by the Police Department.

Alternative 2: Deny the request of the Police Department which would not expand the ALPR Flock Program.

Alternative 3: The City Council may consider any other alternative not proposed by staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Prepared by:

Alex Krikorian, Police Lieutenant

Approved by:

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., City Manager

EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit A – Campaign Disclosures