

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: IN-CAR COMPUTER REPLACEMENT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**BACKGROUND:**

Police patrol vehicles are outfitted with a ruggedized laptop computer that allows officers to perform a wide variety of tasks from the vehicle. Dispatch communications, records search, ticket writing and electronic filing are some of the functions that are possible with the in-car computer. The ruggedized laptops are on a four year replacement cycle. The current laptops are now 5 years old.

For more than 10 years the Department's in-car computers have been a model of Panasonic Toughbook. Panasonic is the industry leader in the limited market of fully ruggedized laptops. Although the experience with Toughbooks has been exceptional, the Department undertook a process to evaluate alternatives available in the market. A committee of officers, supervisors, Records and IT staff was formed and reviewed the available equipment. After the initial review, two options were selected for field trials and those laptops were installed in patrol vehicles. At the conclusion of the field trial, and based on functionality, availability of options, reliability, performance, value, and Department history, the Department again concluded that the Panasonic Toughbook CF-33 was the best choice.

The detailed selection process took approximately 8 months and has pushed the current laptops well past their intended term of service. The Department has received a quote for 11 Toughbooks, 12 in-car mounting systems, 2 in-office mounting systems, additional supporting equipment (power supplies, keyboards, etc.), and installation services from Keltek, Inc., of Baxter, IA, in the amount of \$67,646.55.

The pricing originated from the State of Iowa Master Pricing Agreement for Panasonic Laptops and Tablets which includes pricing from Keltek, Inc. Section 6.06 of the City of Ames Purchasing Policies and Procedures allows the use of State of Iowa cooperative agreements in lieu of soliciting written bids or verbal quotations for the purchase of commodities and services costing less than \$25,000. **The City Council is being asked to waive the City's purchasing policy and extend the allowable dollar amount for the use of State of Iowa cooperative agreement to make this purchase.**

The State of Iowa Master Pricing Agreement provided the City with standardized pricing and allowed the City to negotiate additional discounts. The State contract provides for discounts of 12% to 16% on Panasonic Toughbooks and related equipment depending on the features and capabilities of the equipment purchased. The staff was able to negotiate

a better discount, including a 30% discount on the Panasonic Toughbook CF-33 in the configuration that best serves the Police Department.

Staff has concluded that the Toughbook CF-33s from Keltek, Inc. offer the following benefits:

1. The Toughbook CF-33 is the best choice for an in-car laptop commuter for the Police Department both in terms of functionality and value.
2. The negotiated price offers a good value for the City.
3. The quote includes all equipment and services necessary to acquire and install the new Toughbooks in one package – an important element should there be any issues with performance of the new equipment.
4. Keltek, Inc of Baxter, IA has the resources and ability to complete the installation in a timely manner. Another important element as the current computers continue to age.

**Funding for this purchase is available through a depreciation account and has been budgeted in the current fiscal year.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Waive the City's purchasing policy requirement and extend the dollar amount for the use of State of Iowa cooperative agreement and award a contract to Keltec, Inc., Baxter, IA for the Panasonic Toughbook CF33s from under the State of Iowa Master Pricing Agreement in the amount of \$67,646.55.
2. Do not approve the Police Department's request to purchase Panasonic Toughbook CF33s through Keltec, Inc.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

In-car computers are a critical piece of equipment in the Police Department's vehicles. The Panasonic Toughbook has demonstrated history of quality and reliability. The staff believes that the quote provided by Keltek, Inc., which includes all equipment and installation, under the State of Iowa Master Pricing Agreement is appropriate and reasonable.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby waiving the City's purchasing policy requirement and extend the dollar amount for the use of State of Iowa cooperative agreement and award a contract to Keltec, Inc., Baxter, IA for the Panasonic Toughbook CF33s from under the State of Iowa Master Pricing Agreement in the amount of \$67,646.55.