

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
DES MOINES, IOWA

ITEM 59

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 97-102
FEBRUARY 24, 1997 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
SINGLE SOURCE PURCHASE FOR IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEMS	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	WILLIAM H. MOULDER POLICE CHIEF

SYNOPSIS —

The Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau Alcohol Incentive Grant 97-410 Task 15, which was approved by the Council on December 2, 1996, has allocated \$12,000 for the City of Des Moines to purchase three In-Car Video Systems which will be installed in Des Moines Traffic Unit vehicles. The systems are designed to record incident arrests for evidential presentations to the court.

FISCAL IMPACT —

None.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval and acceptance of sole bidder.

BACKGROUND —

Bid requests were mailed to eight vendors; only one vendor responded. The remaining vendors were contacted requesting why they did not bid. Two vendors sent responding information. One of these vendors claimed they did not receive the bidding packet and sent a late response which was more expensive than the initial vendor's proposal. The second vendor claimed he sold a simple-to-use system without all the *bells and whistles* requested in the specifications. He stated he did not like to provide extensive documentation required in the bid and did not offer nor would he offer some of the features listed in the specifications. He also stated, "It's virtually impossible for any of the nine licensed vendors to accurately bid any but their own system." After reviewing the responses of the concerned vendors, the Police Department finds no reasonable explanation why the sole bidder, who has complied with all specifications, should not be awarded the contract. The specifications submitted were compiled from available literature, staff investigation of existing systems and bid specifications submitted by the Iowa State Patrol in February 1995. The specifications were not written to be restrictive of any vendor, and had the companies contacted submitted a proposal, their systems would have been seriously considered for acceptance. The *bells and whistles* referred to by the above vendor consists of a 70' cable attachment to the camera which allows the officer to take video recordings while outside the vehicle. Crime scene investigations would be greatly enhanced with this feature and should not be difficult for any vendor to provide with a common knowledge of video equipment. The vendor complying with the bid is also selling the City each system at \$40 less than the bid submitted to the Iowa State Patrol.