

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
DES MOINES, IOWA

ITEM 66I

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 97-134
MARCH 17, 1997 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF FILM PROCESSOR FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT IDENTIFICATION SECTION	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	WILLIAM H. MOULDER POLICE CHIEF

SYNOPSIS —

The film processor in the Police Department Identification Section photography laboratory has ceased to function and is not repairable. This equipment is essential for processing over 65,000 negative frames annually of crime scene, accident and mug shot film for the entire department. The unit was purchased in 1981 and is well beyond a reasonable lifetime. A replacement unit has been ordered on an emergency purchase, sole supplier basis for \$14,580.

FISCAL IMPACT —

Funding in the amount of \$14,580 is from salary savings.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval and acceptance of sole bidder.

BACKGROUND —

The breakdown of our film processor in the Identification Section of the Police Department has created an emergency situation of a serious nature. The problems with the unit include bleach pump failure, failure of all solenoids, fuses, heater element rods, and chemical corrosion of connectors and hoses. A service call was initiated, and the unit was determined to be in a non-repairable condition.

Private sector processing was considered, but is not feasible for the following reasons:

1. No proprietary control over security of film footage.
2. No ability to manage rush, specialty, or sensitive assignments.
3. No timely quality control input.
4. Cost-prohibitive.

Vendors were contacted, and Castle Distributing, Inc. was the sole source of a replacement unit. Since the unit had to be built, it was imperative that it be ordered immediately. The Wing-Lynch Model 5 Processor is a rotary tube processor which is superior to the transport-type processors for the following reasons:

1. Our employees are trained to operate this machine, and it is more user-friendly.
2. This processor will produce approximately 1,000,000 negative frames before replacement is needed.
3. There is not enough space for a transport-type processor, and the cost is in excess of \$50,000.
4. The Wing-Lynch rotary tube processor does not require daily chemical quality control measures, nor does it require additional equipment such as a densitometer, at a cost of \$5,000.

Funding for this purchase will be from salary savings.