

SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION JUSTIFICATION FOR NONCOMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT

**Justification for sole source procurement submitted to the City for review and approval.
The justifications:**

1. A brief description of the procurement and what it is being used for.

In reviewing other agencies and recommendations by International Association of Chiefs of Police, we found that other police agencies employ video recording systems within their patrol vehicles for legal and liability reasons. We strongly believed that “on-officer” personal video recording (PVR) systems would better meet our needs as it allows the video camera to “follow the officer” away from the patrol car and into buildings etc, out of view of a patrol car mounted systems.

This procurement for Alameda Police Department is for the purchase of 80 TASER Axon Flex video cameras to be worn upon the uniform of all police officers as they conduct daily operations within the City of Alameda. The video cameras will record interactions with the general public during enforcement of the law with respect to general patrol operations, traffic enforcement, and warrant services. Officers will be unable to delete or alter the video recordings. The purpose of equipping officers with this new technology will be to enhance criminal investigations, reduce or eliminate citizen complaints, provide an administrative tool to review officers’ performance and compliance with agency policies and law, improving trust with our community and to provide a valuable training tool for the agency in the form of actual incident review.

2. An explanation of why it is necessary to contract noncompetitively, to include the following:

a. Expertise of the Contractor.

TASER International Inc, is an international corporation that specifically develops products for the law enforcement community. TASER International was founded in September 1993 and has remained committed to providing solutions which protect life, protect truth, and protect family. The AXON on-officer video and storage system, is committed to reducing violent confrontation, providing accountability, and preventing danger. TASER’s ISO 9001:2008 certification of their quality management system demonstrates their commitment to quality for their customers, employees, and suppliers. This supports a continual improvement philosophy which is the responsibility of every TASER employee. Specifically, this is TASER’s third generation of this camera system. It retained all the features of the original system while evolving into a much smaller, lighter and compact unit suitable for general patrol officer duty. TASER International’s 100,000 sq-ft corporate headquarters and manufacturing facility is located in Scottsdale, Arizona. TASER International, Inc., (NASDAQ:TASR) is a global provider of safety technologies that prevent conflict and protect life. More than 16,500 public safety agencies in 100 countries rely on TASER® electronic control devices (ECDs) and AXON on-officer camera systems to help protect and serve. TASER innovations benefit individuals and families too;

providing personal protection and accountability while maintaining regard for life. Since 1994, more than 230,000 individuals have relied on TASER technology as a means for effective personal safety.

b. Management/Responsiveness/Knowledge/Personnel

Following 27 months of field testing “on-officer” video camera systems from four different manufacturers, it is readily apparent to our agency that TASER International has had the most responsive performance to our agencies individual needs, questions, and concerns. They have kept in constant contact throughout the evaluation period and have offered valid solutions to any concerns. The product manager of the company attended a meeting with our agency command staff, first line supervisors, as has their CEO, sales associates, and technical engineers. They have proven themselves to be reputable and dependable at all times. Their support has been without issue and their personnel are highly trained, motivated, and reliable.

3. Time constraints:

a. When contractual coverage is needed and why.

Contractual coverage is required this fiscal year as unanticipated salary savings are present only during this FY 14-15. Pricing quoted by TASER International includes substantial discounts that will not be honored if we allow this quote to expire.

b. Impact on the program if dates are not met.

After July 1, 2015, the department will enter a new fiscal year resulting in our agency not having the funding to equip all officers with a video camera system. Also, the current quote provided by Taser is utilizing 2014 pricing due to the ongoing supportive relationship, and if not purchased prior to July 1, 2015, this pricing will increase on subsequent quotes.

c. How long it would take another contractor to reach the same level of competence

There is currently no other manufacturer of “on-officer” video camera systems that provide several key capabilities that our agency believes are critical to meeting our needs. These capabilities are detailed below.

4. Uniqueness

The Taser AXON Flex body worn camera has been selected as the preferred body worn camera system for the Alameda Police Department. This camera system is the most technologically advanced system among those similar systems available. This unit is the most advanced because it is the only system that offers a 30-second pre-event recording loop. This enables the camera to capture video 30 seconds prior to the officer activating

the system. No other camera system currently offers a pre-event recording feature. The AXON Flex also offers a server-connected download/recharge cradle station. This allows the officers to place the camera into the cradle, at the end of their shift, and walk-away as the system automatically and securely downloads video and charges the camera. All other vendor products require manual downloading and manual data entry documentation; requiring officers to spend 20 – 40 minutes at the end of their shift downloading data. This would be detrimental to our agency in terms of increased payroll costs and/or reduced service time to the community. The AXON Flex is also the sole system that permits blue-tooth remote viewing via a smart phone or patrol car mounted mobile data computer. This connection permits data entry by the officer in real time at the conclusion of each event versus all other systems requiring data entry at the end of the officer's shift. The Axon Flex offers up to 15 body mounting options to more properly adjust to different body types, uniforms and assignments. Other systems offer only one or two body mount options and none or one vehicle mounting option. A survey of other "on-officer" video manufacturers determined that other manufacturers currently have no plans for developing these capabilities.

Taser offers EVIDENCE.com military grade security media storage. EVIDENCE.com simplifies digital evidence management with immediate and secure access with functionality features such as GPS mapping, multiple evidence formats (mpeg, doc, pdf, etc), case management functionality, roles and permission level security, web based access, chain of custody tracking and auditability, and most importantly, relieves the City of the costs and maintenance of another secure server storage concern. Because this is a primary service of Taser, they have the expertise, personnel, and legal resources necessary to support such a robust system.

5. Other

Studies conducted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) have documented that the deployment of "on-officer" video camera systems have increased both the level of positive interaction of police officers as well as citizens. As a result, citizen complaints have sharply decreased in communities where such cameras have been deployed, the need for "uses of force" have been decreased, and community trust for law enforcement has increased.

6. Declaration

The procurement of the TASER Axon Flex video camera, via a sole source approval, will be in the best interest of the City of Alameda, the Alameda Police Department, and our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Rolleri
Chief of Police