

LRB – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
ITEM 4, FILE #080931**

NOVEMBER 17, 2008

File #080931 authorizes the Milwaukee Police Department (“MPD”) to apply for, accept and fund a 2008 COPS Technology Grant from the United States Department of Justice – Community Oriented Policing Services in the amount of \$355,414. Grant proceeds will be used to purchase 46 in-squad camera units and fund requisite concurrent expansion of back-end storage capacity. Operation of this 100% donor funded earmark grant is for the period January 1, 2008 through December 25, 2010.

Discussion

There are currently 67 fully functional in-squad camera units, also referred to as Mobile Digital Video Recorders (“MDVRs”) and Digital Mobile Video Cameras (“DMVCs”), in operation. An additional 37 units have been installed but have yet to be activated, while 14 in-squad camera units await installation. These in-squad cameras supply video images of stops, which may be used as evidence in a prosecution. Many of these Digital Mobile Video Cameras were purchased with Year 2005 and Year 2008 Impaired Driving Reduction Project Grant funds. (Approved in Files #050383 and #080191.)

A portion of a 2008 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant will be used to purchase 5 additional mobile data video recorders.

The 2008 COPS Technology Grant will be used to purchase an additional 46 in-squad cameras along with required back-end storage capacity.

Fiscal Impact

As the 2008 COPS Technology Grant is 100% donor funded, there is no impact on the City tax levy.

2005 COPS Technology Grant Funding and Implementation Timeline

A 2005 COPS Technology Grant in the amount of \$493,322 provided funding to purchase 93 Rapid ID devices and accessories as well as warranty services and support computer software. This grant, which was approved in File #050995, encompassed the period September 1, 2005 to December 7, 2007. However, the earmark nature of this grant, combined with an extended funding and purchasing timeline, resulted in a delay in MPD inventory of the 93 Rapid ID devices until Spring 2008.

Rapid ID allows for the quick field identification, via a two fingerprint transmitted image, of those individuals suspected of engaging in criminal activity. At present, 11 squads and 5 district stations are equipped with Rapid ID. The Police Department’s Data Services Division has indicated that unexpected issues slowing the process of the network upgrade have prevented the deployment of the remaining 77 Rapid ID devices. Beginning on Monday, November 17, the Data Services Division will initiate the process of creating a deployment plan as well as refining the documentation for knowledge transfer, installation and support of these units. Provided there are no setbacks, the Division expects to begin deploying the remaining units in the following 2 weeks.

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November 14, 2008