



Agenda Item #: \_\_\_\_\_



# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Montgomery and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Geoff Dolan, City Manager *GD*

**FROM:** Rod Uyeda, Chief of Police *RU*  
 Randy Leaf, Captain *RL*  
 Tony DiGenova, Lieutenant *TD*  
 Gwen Eng, General Services Manager *GE*  
 Julie Dahlgren, Management Analyst *JD*

**DATE:** October 21, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of the Grant Funded Purchase of Two Automated License Plate Readers from PIPS Technology in an Amount Not to Exceed \$50,011 and Law Enforcement Equipment in the Amount of \$24,118.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council: a) authorize the purchase of two automated license plate readers from PIPS Technology in an amount not to exceed \$50,011; b) waive formal bidding per Municipal Code Section 2.36.150 (cooperative purchasing); c) authorize staff to administratively purchase law enforcement equipment in an amount not to exceed \$24,4118; and d) appropriate \$74,129 from the General Fund which will be reimbursed at a later date by grant funds from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

### FISCAL IMPLICATION:

These are not budgeted items; however, the purchases will be fully reimbursed by DHS. In addition, the City must first purchase the state-approved items and then submit request for reimbursement. As a result, an appropriation of \$74,129 from the General Fund is needed. There are no City fund matching requirements. Police Department operating budget will provide for on-going maintenance costs.

### BACKGROUND:

The Police Department was awarded two grants from the Department of Homeland Security in the 2007 grant year – \$28,411 from the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) and \$45,718 from the Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP).

#### **State Homeland Security Grant Program (\$28,411)**

The State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) funding supports the enhancement of national preparedness capabilities. Funding goes to state and local governments to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks and other disasters

(includes funding for equipment, exercises, training, and interoperable community projects). This is the fourth SHSGP grant awarded to the Police Department since the grant program's inception in 2001.

**Buffer Zone Protection Program (\$45,718)**

The Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) was created to increase the preparedness capabilities of jurisdictions responsible for the safety and security of high-priority critical infrastructure. The Department of Homeland Security identified critical infrastructure within the City of Manhattan Beach, which enabled the Manhattan Beach Police Department to receive BZPP grant funding. This grant includes funding for equipment and technology to strengthen law enforcement investigations and operations, and aid in preventing or disrupting terrorist attacks and threats. This is the first time the Manhattan Beach Police Department has received this grant.

**DISCUSSION:**

The State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Buffer Zone Protection Program are both grants which award funds for the express purpose of purchasing specific equipment and technology, as approved by the state. All funds received under this grant must be used to supplement local front-line law enforcement needs and cannot be used to supplant funding for such activities.

This year, we have been approved for the purchase of the following state-approved equipment:

**Automated License Plate Readers (2): \$50,011**

Both SHSGP and BZPP awarded the Police Department funding to purchase Automated License Plate Readers. Mounted on top of a patrol car, the automated license plate reader scans the license plates of both moving and parked vehicles and runs the plate against a database of felony warrants, wanted criminals, stolen vehicles, and Amber Alerts – then, notifies the officer with an alert message.

The recommended vendor is PIPS Technology, who currently provides license plate recognition systems to more than 40 law enforcement agencies serving California, including: Beverly Hills Police Department, Burbank Police Department, California Highway Patrol, El Segundo Police Department, Glendale Police Department, Hawthorne Police Department, Long Beach Police Department, Los Angeles Police Department, and both Los Angeles and Orange County Sheriff's Departments. This network of agencies will grow quickly, as thirteen cities in Los Angeles County were awarded SHSGP funds to purchase license plate recognition systems.

In order to maintain consistency and ensure interoperability from agency to agency, PIPS Technology was selected county-wide as the sole-source vendor for the purchase of this technology, as approved by the California Office of Homeland Security.

**Personal Protective Equipment: \$3,400**

SHSGP Funds (in the 2004 and 2005 grant years) provided personnel protective equipment, including gas masks, for all field personnel. This protective equipment is for use in the event of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE)

incidents. The 2007 SHSGP award of \$3,400 is allocated for the purchase of new gas mask cartridges, which offer enhanced respiratory protection against industrial agents, gases, vapors, and particles, as well as chemical, biological, and radiological airborne contaminants.

**Mobile Surveillance Equipment: \$20,718**

BZPP funds were specifically allocated for the purchase of mobile digital surveillance equipment to aid the Manhattan Beach Police Department in the prevention of and protection against possible terrorist activity at federally designated high-risk critical infrastructure sites, as defined in the Buffer Zone Protection Program. The site that is the focus point for this grant award is Northrop Grumman. Earlier in the year, members of the Manhattan Beach Police Department and Redondo Beach Police Department met with Northrop Grumman as well as Homeland Security authorities to discuss specific needs to combat potential threats at that site and a decision was reached to award the grant for mobile surveillance equipment to help protect Northrop Grumman assets in the Cities of Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach. This surveillance equipment will consist of several cameras that can easily be moved from place to place, and even placed in surveillance vehicles and monitored at a distant site, such as the Police Department. The system will offer a variety of critical infrastructure protection and information gathering needs, particularly at times of elevated security threat levels. This system could also be tactically deployed to monitor critical infrastructure within the City, such as City Hall, the Water Tower, Public Works facility or the National Guard Armory should a threat arise, as well as aid in the detection and apprehension of suspects involved in other criminal activity when needed, such as vandalism in our parks, schools and along the Strand. The system can also enhance management of critical events and incidents from a distance when needed. This equipment will be coming from different vendors and therefore will not exceed the formal bid limit.

**DISCUSSION:**

If Council approves these recommendations, staff anticipates purchasing all items by the end of the fiscal year.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Exhibit A – Letter from the State Office of Homeland Security to the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management Approving PIPS Technology as Sole Source Vendor for the State Homeland Security Grant Program