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DATE: August 13, 2008

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Police Department

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF TWO PURCHASE ORDERS FOR A POLICE MOBILE COMMAND CENTER VEHICLE AND RADIO EQUIPMENT; AND A BUDGET APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF 573,594 TO FUND THE PURCHASES**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$540,860 to LDV, Inc., of Burlington, Wisconsin, for the purchase of a mobile command center vehicle; approve a purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$32,734 to Infiniti Wireless Solutions of San Diego for radio equipment for the vehicle; approve a budget appropriation in the amounts of \$200,000 from the unallocated fund balance in the Comprehensive Traffic Safety Fund and \$373,594 from the unallocated fund balance in the Asset Forfeiture Fund for the vehicle and radio equipment; and authorize the Financial Services Director, or designee, to execute the purchase orders.

### **BACKGROUND**

The City of Oceanside Police Department manages numerous critical incidents each year that include homicide scenes, officer-involved shootings, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, major traffic collisions, DUI checkpoints, Driver's License checkpoints, proactive gang and drug sweeps, missing persons and other incidents that draw together various resources of the Department and at times the City and outside agencies. A mobile command center vehicle allows staff to run any major incident from the field, in close proximity to where the event is occurring. In addition, pre-positioning a mobile command center vehicle will facilitate recovery efforts from major disasters, terrorism or nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attacks.

Currently, the Department has a fifth-wheel trailer acquired used from a private party two years ago. The trailer supports critical incident management by providing shelter, some equipment storage, lavatory, and electrical outlets that support two laptop computers. The existing trailer has primarily been used to support traffic safety checkpoints, but it does support special operations such as major crime scenes and special events.

A mobile command center vehicle is needed to plan, coordinate, and implement activities in order to successfully resolve critical incidents. A mobile command center vehicle:

- Facilitates command and control capabilities when managing critical incidents and special events that can last several hours or days.
- Provides improved communications and situational awareness for on-scene supervision and command.
- Facilitates on-scene coordination of critical incidents and special events.
- Provides a secure area to conduct investigations and crisis response.
- Provides for a temporary dispatch center in the event the police station is disabled.

The technology in most present-day mobile command center vehicles far exceeds the capabilities of the Police Department's existing fifth-wheel trailer.

## **ANALYSIS**

Research into mobile command center vehicles concluded that LDV, Inc., and Farber Specialty Vehicles, based in Ohio, had the longest standing in the industry, a wide customer base, and very similar commercial grade products. The majority of other command center vehicle builders utilize a recreational vehicle chassis whereas a commercial-grade chassis is preferred for durability. Both companies are suppliers of mobile command center vehicles under the General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Supply Schedules. However, LDV, Inc., by far has more vehicles listed in GSA supply schedules than any other builder. LDV, Inc., has the most extensive history in providing specialty vehicles to law enforcement.

LDV, Inc., is an industry leader in developing and constructing mobile command center vehicles. They have been in business for over thirty years and have built mobile command center vehicles for government agencies across the country, including dozens in California. Several agencies in Orange County, for example, have purchased LDV, Inc., mobile command center vehicles in an organized effort to pre-position those resources strategically throughout the county.

Staff has worked with LDV, Inc., to produce custom-designed specifications for a mobile command center vehicle that incorporates the practical needs of critical incident management with emerging technologies. The vehicle has been designed to be pre-wired to accept the necessary equipment that will enable 9-1-1 calls and computer-aided dispatching to be conducted on-board the vehicle as a backup to the designated dispatch center at the police station. The vehicle has also been designed to facilitate radio communication with agencies that are not a part of the Regional Communication System (RCS) through interoperability technology. Real-time mapping of resources and the ability to conduct recorded interviews are other examples of the features that have been included that do not exist in our current trailer.

The purchase of the mobile command center vehicle is exempt from competitive bidding per the City of Oceanside *Procurement of Goods and Services Administrative Directive* under *Section IX.G.G Procurement Clauses, Exemption to Competitive Bidding, Cooperative Purchase Agreements*. This is because pricing for the mobile command center vehicle is based on the discounted Federal General Services Administration (GSA) Supply Schedules. The GSA establishes long-term government-wide contracts with commercial firms to provide volume discount pricing. This benefit is normally only afforded to the Federal Government. However, per Section 833 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 109-364) 40 U.S.C. 502, was amended to authorize the Administrator of General Services to provide to State and local governments the use of GSA's Federal Supply Schedules in pre-positioning in anticipation of a disaster. LDV, Inc., is a GSA contract company with more command vehicles listed in the supply schedule than any other builder. Additionally, the command vehicle selected by the Police Department is based on an existing model built by LDV, Inc., for the Cities of Garden Grove and Huntington Beach, which were "piggy-backed" off of the model purchased by the City of Santa Ana. The Financial Services Department has approved this exemption pursuant to Section IX.G.G of the above referenced Administrative Directive.

The San Diego Sheriff's Department oversees the Regional Communications System (RCS) for San Diego and Imperial Counties. The radio system transmits on an 800MHz frequency. The radio equipment to be purchased for the mobile command center vehicle is from Motorola, Inc., through Infinity Wireless Solutions and is programmed by RCS prior to being put into service. The price quoted is from RCS contract number 43095. The RCS contract authorizes Infinity Wireless Solutions as a provider of the radio equipment to San Diego County agencies that are members of RCS.

The Comprehensive Traffic Safety Fund and the Asset Forfeiture Fund accounts are restricted in their use, however, a mobile command center vehicle falls within the category of allowable purchases for both accounts. The mobile command center vehicle is a multiuse apparatus. Its primary use will be supporting Traffic Services Unit-related operations which include two traffic safety checkpoints per month. It will also serve to support critical incident management, which includes pre-positioning an apparatus that will be used to facilitate recovery efforts from major disasters. This use will be less frequent, however, no less important. Combining these uses into one vehicle eliminates the need to design and fund the acquisition of two separate pieces of equipment, which is a cost-savings benefit. Therefore, the use of both of the aforementioned accounts to pay for a mobile command center vehicle is appropriate use of each fund.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funding for the purchase of the Mobile Command Center vehicle will be appropriated from two Police Department accounts: the Comprehensive Traffic Safety Fund (260.1011) in the amount of \$200,000 will be transferred to (260.364415.5704); and the Asset Forfeiture Fund (204.1011) in the amount of \$340,860 will be transferred to pay the remaining balance of the vehicle and transferred to (204.364371.5704). An

additional appropriation in the amount of \$32,734 from the Asset Forfeiture Fund (204.1011) will pay for the radios and be transferred to (204.364371.5704).

**CITY ATTORNEY'S ANALYSIS**

Does not apply.

**COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Police & Fire Commission considered and approved this matter at its regular monthly meeting on July 17, 2008.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$540,860 to LDV, Inc., of Burlington, Wisconsin, for the purchase of a mobile command center vehicle; approve a purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$32,734 to Infiniti Wireless Solutions of San Diego for radio equipment for the vehicle; approve a budget appropriation in the amounts of \$200,000 from the unallocated fund balance in the Comprehensive Traffic Safety Fund and \$373,594 from the unallocated fund balance in the Asset Forfeiture Fund for the vehicle and radio equipment; and authorize the Financial Services Director, or designee, to execute the purchase orders.

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