

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
DECEMBER 21, 2023 – 6:00PM

The special meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Rich at 6:01pm.

Council Members Present: Aldred, Boleware, Bruce, Dwyer, Knol and Rich

Council Members Absent: Bridges

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, Interim City Clerk Lindahl, Assistant City Manager Mondora, Director Skrobola, Police Chief King, and City Attorney Joppich

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY CLERK TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH AXON FOR THE OFFICER SAFETY BUNDLE FOR A 5-YEAR TERM. CMR 12-23-129

Police Chief King thanked Council for their consideration and taking time to hold this special meeting. He explained that the department feels that this is the best way to move forward as future challenges not only increase officer and community safety but also department effectiveness, and this contract will only increase accountability within the officers and agency. He added that the sole objective is to bring professionalism and increase performance levels from officer up to chief of police in how the department polices the community.

Kyle Hites, Axon Regional Manager, provided Council with a presentation which introduced Axon, discussed how they can help solve issues the department is currently experiencing, and reviewed the benefits of the Officer Safety Bundle package. The following was highlighted:

- Axon works with over 19,000 agencies including a number of agencies in the greater Detroit area, noting that Warren, Dearborn and Novi have purchased similar officer safety packages.
- They provide a secure central location to store and manage data and digital evidence, such as body camera footage, in car camera footage as well as associated photos and other CCTV camera footage in a more efficient and effective manner; addressing the issue of sharing data as prosecutors and partner agencies are able to access.
- The built in AI redaction capabilities will assist with FOIA requests for body and in car camera footage, allowing staff to expedite the turnaround time to process these types of requests, promoting the efficiency and transparency of the department.
- All tasers devices will be upgraded to the Taser 10 which is a more effective, less lethal device.
- Axon performance, a software-based tool, will give supervisors and command staff the ability to audit videos to ensure that the department is following policy standards, that their officers are being held accountable and their day-to-day interactions with the public are professional.
- In car cameras will be upgraded to the Fleet 3 system which has integrated license plate reader technology; a technology currently used within the city that has assisted in solving crimes quickly; which promotes efficiency, officer safety and transparency.
- All cloud security and digital data is designed to meet FBI requirements.

Mr. Hites discussed the costs and terms associated with the proposal, noting the following:

- The total five-year cost of the proposal is \$2,721,297.20 with an effective start date of March 1, 2024.
- The first year is split into two payments; \$49,006.43 invoiced in February 2024 when the hardware is expected to ship and program set to go, live with the remaining amount of \$496,253.01 invoiced on July 1, 2024.
- The remaining years an invoice of \$544,259.44 will come in July with the last one being July 2028.
- This bundle receives many discounts, and the department is set to receive \$931,370.89 in savings over the five-year contract
- After January 1st the prices are set to increase, as well as incentives that will be lost, increasing the contract to \$3,121,297.00, therefore, executing the contract before the end of the year, the city is set to receive savings of \$400,000, which is equivalent to nearly nine months of service in contract value.

Council questioned the urgency to have the agreement signed, why there is such an increase from 2023 to 2024 and the timeline if the agreement was approved this evening.

In response to the questions, Michael Tagliaferri, Vice President of Sales, stated that their fiscal year matches the calendar year so at the end of 2023 they close the books and begin a new fiscal year. He added that Axon recently moved into the S&P 500 and is one of the 500 largest companies in the in the US so the decision to not offer 2023 pricing in 2024 is a financial and legal decision, not a sales decision.

Mr. Hites mentioned that they have locked in shipping timelines and all hardware is expected to ship in February with installation likely taking place between March and April, including in car cameras, body cameras and tasers.

Discussion was held on the need for all officers to have their own body cameras and tasers instead of checking out from an equipment pool in the armory, as it eliminates delayed officer response and issues with mis-tagging because videos from the pool cameras are not assigned to a specific officer.

Council expressed concerns regarding the performance of existing vendors and issues with current contracts and requested that going forward they be provide with updates on issues with any vendors or contracts, in which they approved, not meeting their contractual obligation.

Discussion was held on the timeline provided by Chief King detailing staff's evaluation of the proposal and the issues with current vendors and impact on the efficiency and safety of the department.

Mayor Rich questioned the terms and conditions of the flock system and if there is assurance it will continue to be used responsibly with integration to the new system.

Chief King responded stating that the department's policy is a model policy, and the system is used to look for violent felonies, domestic violence, stolen cars and missing persons, observing only the plate, vehicle make, model, color, not the interior occupancy of the vehicle. He added that the new system will mirror this policy and they will follow it very strictly.

Council expressed concerns if the installation was not complete within the timeframe discussed and how the city would handle a breach of contract.

Mr. Tagliaferri addressed Council's concerns stating that the completion expectation is April 2024, although it is somewhat of a moving target due to the coordination of vehicles to be taken out of service for installation and the weeklong training for officers, but they are confident with the timeline as they have the inventory ready.

Attorney Joppich added that if there were a breach of contract, the city would provide written notice and the opportunity to the vendor to fix the issue; it would all be documented, and the city would consult with his office to formulate those notices and how to proceed going forward.

City Manager Mekjian stated that this is a critical program for our Police Department and the Chief along with staff will be overseeing the schedule and the implementation, so if there are issues staff will be on top of it and prepared to take legal action if necessary.

Council requested that going forward they be provide with updates on issues with any vendors or contracts, in which they approved, not meeting their contractual obligation.

There were no public comments.

MOTION by Dwyer, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager and City Clerk to sign and enter into an agreement with Axon for the Officer Safety Bundle, 5-year agreement for \$2,721,297.20, or \$544,259.44 per year.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Aldred, support by Boleware, to adjourn the special City Council meeting at 7:03pm.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Lindahl, Interim City Clerk