

# MUSCATINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator

**FROM:** Brett Talkington, Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** City Council Agenda Item for July 21, 2016 – Interview Room Video Server

**DATE:** June 27, 2016

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Police Department would like city council permission to purchase a replacement to our stand alone Interview room DVR and replace it with a video server. We will also be moving a camera/mic system from one room to another. The total cost to do this will be \$8,854.50 which will be paid for out of our forfeiture account.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Out of the 2012/2013 budget the Police Department we purchased a camera system and DVR for recording interviews and other interactions in conference and interview rooms from Racom. At the time, a standalone GE DVR was spec'd for this project as was the norm.

A couple of months ago we started having problems with the DVR and we found out that the DVR was past its end of life and no longer supported by GE. We also discovered that this model has a problem with hard drive failures. We asked Racom to provide a quote to replace the DVR with a newer model. At that time the Racom representative told us that the industry was moving away from DVR's such as our and going to server based products. The reasons stated for this were that servers had safeguards built in to them to help protect against catastrophic hard drive failures. He also told us that they were able to make a more robust product in the form of a server based solution for today's video needs.

We spoke to John Kreuzenstein about this and he highly recommended that we move from the standalone DVR to a server as it was more secure and easier to maintain from an IT perspective.

We received a quote from Racom for their product/recommended solution and also looked for other quotes from reputable dealers.

We had specific needs or wants from this server due to our particular needs. The biggest request was that we wanted to be able to switch the camera and/or the microphone on and off with our current wall mounted switches due to sometimes using the conference and interview rooms for personnel and other confidential discussions. This is important because the server systems by their nature constantly record video and audio.

Besides getting a quote from Racom we also spoke with FSS incorporated and Lucas Communications.

Racom provided a quote for the amount of \$7,481.50. Racom's quote did not include the cost to move the camera and microphone from one room of our building to a new interview room nor could they switch the camera or microphone on or off. We were told we would have to purchase all new cameras from them to have this functionality. Racom's quote included a 4 TB hard drive system in a RAID configuration.

FSS Incorporated provided a quote for the amount of \$8,854.50. FSS Incorporated's quote included the cost to move the equipment to the new room, includes the ability to switch on/off the microphone so no audio will be recorded if we don't want it to and included in the server is 16 TB of RAID storage space compared to the 4 TB spec'd by Racom.

Lucas Communications was contacted regarding this project and, after looking at what we were wanting, they said they did not have the equipment available to supply to us and decided not to bid.

**RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE:**

It is our recommendation that City Council authorized the department to purchase the video server from our forfeiture fund account from FSS Incorporated.