

MUSCATINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator

FROM: Brett Talkington, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: City Council Agenda Item for August 1, 2019 – WatchGuard Video System

DATE: July 26, 2019

INTRODUCTION:

As part of the 2019/2020 budget request the police department requested funding to replace our squad video equipment and expand our system to include body worn cameras. We are asking for city council approval to move forward with this project. The cost for the replacement equipment, new body worn cameras and related hardware and labor from WatchGuard Video will be \$142,105.00. There will be associated expenses for equipment for this that we are working with John Kreuzenstein on. There is \$148,000 budget for this project.

BACKGROUND:

In 2005 the department made a move from a VHS based squad car video system to a digital squad car video system. Since we originally moved to a digital video system we have expanded the video system to fourteen (14) vehicles. The expansion allowed each marked vehicle as well as the SCU car to have video recording capabilities. In 2013 we purchased and installed our current system that is manufactured by WatchGuard Video. The prosecution and judicial personnel have continually increased their reliance on video evidence in court to the point of demanding it.

We are at a point with our squad DVR's where the hardware, including server, has progressed past its life expectancy and a maintenance agreement is no longer offered.

Along with squad video, body worn video has become more reliable and affordable and almost becoming a necessity in criminal prosecutions and protecting our officers. In addition to replacing the current squad video system we want to include funding to purchase and implement body worn video.

RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE:

The Muscatine Police Department is asking City Council for approval to issue a purchase order to WatchGuard Video in the amount of \$142,105.00.