

**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
**AGENDA REPORT**

**To:** Office of the City Administrator  
**Attn:** Deborah Edgerly  
**From:** Police Department  
**Date:** May 22, 2007

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
2007 MAY 22 PM 5:34

**Re: Resolution Waiving the Competitive Bid Process and Awarding Two Contracts For The Purchase Of:**

- 1) A Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) Ultra 8500XRT Camera from FLIR, Inc. In An Amount Not-To-Exceed Two Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Eight Dollars And Nine Cents (\$269,898.09), And**
- 2) A Broadcast Microwave System (BMS) From BMS, Inc. In An Amount Not-To-Exceed Twenty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars (\$26,599.00) For the Oakland Police Air Support Unit Helicopter**

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**SUMMARY**

The Oakland Police Department (OPD) was recently informed by the Department's helicopter service provider, Big Valley Aviation, that it's current Forward-Looking Infrared camera (FLIR) 2000 was no longer functional and irreparable. The FLIR camera is a necessary tool to the Air Support Unit during all patrols. Due to the extreme importance of the FLIR camera to all patrols, the Department seeks to purchase a new FLIR 8500 XRT camera and upgrade the unit to include a Broadcast Microwave System downlink (BMS).

A report and proposed resolution has been prepared waiving the competitive bid process and authorizing the City Administrator or her designee to purchase a Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) ultra 8500XRT camera from FLIR, Inc. at a purchase price of \$269,898.09 (tax included) and a Broadcast Microwave System (BMS) from BMS, Inc. at a purchase price of \$26,599.00 (tax included) for the Oakland Police Air Support Unit Helicopter, to replace the Police Department's existing FLIR 2000 model, which is no longer functional or capable of repair.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Approval of this resolution will authorize the purchase of a new FLIR ultra 8500 XRT camera and a BMS downlink system for the Air Support Unit Helicopter, for a total purchase price of \$296,497.09. The funds to complete this purchase are available and will be drawn from Department of Justice Grant Administration Fund (2112), Bureau of Administration Organization (106110), Miscellaneous Contract Services Account (54919), Agency wide Administration Program (PS01), and COPS More Grant Project (H95320). Big Valley Aviation Inc. will install the FLIR equipment within the terms of the existing service contract.

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<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Sales Tax</b>
FLIR Inc. 8500XRT	\$248,182.00 + \$21,716.09 (8.75%) = \$269,898.09	
BMS downlink system	\$24,459.00 + \$2,140.00 (8.75%) = \$26,599.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$296,497.09</b>	

**BACKGROUND**

The FLIR model 2000 was purchased by the Department in 1989, and went out of service in October 2006. At that time, Big Valley Aviation was able to troubleshoot the problem and repair the unit. Since that time, the FLIR 2000 has again become inoperable; spare parts are no longer produced or available, and FLIR Inc. no longer repairs the FLIR 2000.

**KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

The Helicopter Unit plays an integral part in the Department's ability to effectively fight crime and maintain order. The FLIR is a very valuable piece of equipment that aids the helicopter crew on every flight by allowing them to focus in on a particular object. Once an object has been identified, the crew can magnify it by using the FLIR camera. The FLIR camera has the additional benefit of being able to track heat sources. This is particularly helpful at night.

The Helicopter Unit routinely answers calls for service, which reduces the demand of ground based officers. In this capacity, the FLIR allows the helicopter pilots to observe activity on the ground and clear an incident before a ground based unit has to be dispatched. If a ground based unit is necessary, the helicopter crew can describe the scene before responding officers arrive which is a tremendous tactical advantage for the ground based officers. This is a particularly helpful tool during the Department's actions against individuals selling narcotics in the City.

The FLIR helicopter is also invaluable to the observation and capture of wanted suspects. Officers are routinely involved in foot chases with wanted suspects in various areas of the City. With the assistance of the FLIR, the helicopter crew can find an individual who is hiding outside. With the associated mapping equipment, the helicopter crew can direct responding officers directly to the suspect's hiding place. This enhances officer safety and reduces the inconvenience associated with having the officers perform grid searches in the yards of Oakland residents.

The FLIR helicopter is an essential risk management tool, routinely taking over police pursuits and allowing the helicopter crew to observe and follow a suspect vehicle. Ground units are able to reduce their speeds and respond directly to the suspect while observing normal traffic laws. This results in positive pursuit control which translates into reduced liability for the City of Oakland. The helicopter often follows vehicle pursuits out of the City of Oakland. The helicopter crew is able to communicate with all surrounding law enforcement agencies and direct all responding officers, something ground based units cannot do. Finally, officers are given specific instructions on where the suspect vehicle is located. This is only possible because of the FLIR's camera capacity.

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The Helicopter Unit flies every Friday and Saturday night as part of the Department's effort to control sideshow activities. Using the FLIR, the Department's helicopter crew can observe individuals on foot and in vehicles without being detected. The helicopter unit provides ground based units an accurate account of what is happening long before they arrive. This helps the ground based units determine:

- The size of the crowd
- Exact location of the crowd
- How to approach
- How enforcement is progressing

The FLIR camera also assists in monitoring crowd movement and direction. By notifying ground forces when a crowd has stopped moving, units can proceed directly to the problem and address it before it becomes uncontrollable. The FLIR is also helpful in viewing the behavior of officers involved in the Sideshow enforcement activities and other large scale events.

The FLIR and the BMS downlink system are critical safety component for the Fire Department as a fire prevention tool. Helicopter crews continually scan residential areas, as well as the Oakland hills for fires. The crews assist at the scene of fires by dropping water on hotspots identified by using the heat-seeking equipment (FLIR), directing fire engines to the easiest access routes to fires, and directing firefighters and citizens away from potentially dangerous areas. Once the fire is extinguished, the helicopter crew continues to monitor the area for additional hotspots using the FLIR. Additionally, the OPD helicopter unit can broadcast live footage of any fire directly to an OFD field commander using the FLIR camera in conjunction with the BMS downlink system. This gives the fire department the advantage of an aerial observation platform without having to be directly in the helicopter at the time of the incident.

It is recommended that the City Council waive the competitive bid process and authorize award of the contract to FLIR, Inc. because the new FLIR is capable of being mounted onto the existing external mount, and wired with the existing harness. It is also recommended that the City Council waive the competitive bid process and authorize award of the contract to BMS, Inc. because the new BMS is capable of transmitting to a remote location through established equipment. Also, the Department already owns the FCC licenses for the existing BMS downlink system. Purchasing equipment not manufactured by FLIR, Inc. or BMS Inc. would require the City to purchase additional equipment, and licensing, thereby increasing the total purchase price of the equipment.

Oakland Municipal Code section 2.04.050.1.5 permits waiver of the competitive bid process and negotiated award for products when the City Council determines that it is in the best interests of the City.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The FLIR 8500XRT incorporates a day time color camera, with an infrared night time camera. Because of the FLIR's unique capabilities, it is a critical resource for the City of Oakland. The Air Support Unit operates the FLIR cameras in every flight. During the day the camera is able to observe criminal activity without being detected and at night activity is observed with the use of the infrared camera.

The FLIR is made up of a combination of different components. The infrared imager, lowlight camera and BMS downlink system are housed in a turret, which is the portion of the system that is being replaced. The existing computer, viewing screen, wiring harness, and associated software (which integrate the FLIR with the other systems) are still functional and not in need of replacement at this time.

The BMS downlink system allows ground units to observe what the pilots see from the air. Helicopter pilots train the FLIR camera on a specific event and the BMS downlink system transmits the live footage from the FLIR camera to a mobile monitor on the ground. Currently the Department and the Oakland Fire Department (OFD) are both equipped with BMS receiving equipment and monitors. Only one of the police helicopters currently has this capacity. Expanding this capacity to both helicopters will ensure that the Department can transmit live video footage anytime a helicopter is airborne.

The Oakland Police Department and Fire Department are both equipped with BMS technology which allows for remote viewing directly from the helicopter. The BMS downlink system is currently installed on the Department's other helicopter and will be an upgrade with the new FLIR equipment to this helicopter.

*Additional uses of the FLIR include:*

- Missing person searches
- Rooftop searches of suspects and suicidal persons, without being detected
- Aerial Command Post using the BMS downlink
- Locating discarded firearms

## **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

*Economic:* The FLIR increases the efficiency of the Air Support Unit in the evening; in turn, the Air Support Unit increases the efficiency of the officers on the street. This exchange provides the officers more opportunities to respond to emergency calls for service, conduct more proactive patrols, and engage in problem solving endeavors. All of these positive police activities help to control or reduce crime, making the City safer for our citizens. A safer City has a greater opportunity to grow economically.

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*Environmental:* With the aid of the FLIR 8500XRT camera, flight crews can quickly identify fires and report directly to the Oakland Fire Department. By rapidly identifying and responding to fires, damage to property is decreased resulting in a decrease of toxic pollutants into the atmosphere.

*Social Equity:* FLIR technology increases the effectiveness of the Air Support Unit by making the helicopter more efficient in aerial searches, which enhances violence prevention and helps to facilitate the safety of residents in all areas of Oakland.

### **DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

There are numerous high-rise senior citizen dwellings that house senior citizens and persons who are physically challenged throughout the City of Oakland. The helicopter equipped with modern cameras would be capable of quickly locating disabled and elderly individuals during an emergency.

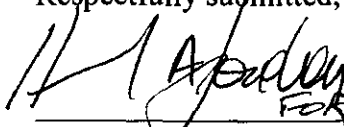
### **RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COUNCIL**

Staff recommends acceptance of this report and approval of the proposed resolution waiving the competitive bid process and authorizing the City Administrator or her designee to purchase a *Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) ultra 8500XRT camera from FLIR, Inc. at a purchase price of \$269,898.09 (tax included) and a Broadcast Microwave System (BMS) from BMS, Inc. at a purchase price of \$26,599.00 (tax included) for the Oakland Police Air Support Unit Helicopter, to replace the Police Department's existing FLIR 2000 model, which is no longer functional or capable of repair.*

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO  
THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

  
Office of the City Administrator

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne G. Tucker  
Chief of Police

Prepared by:  
Lt. Ed Poulson  
Airport Security Section  
Bureau of Field Operations

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2007 MAY 10 PM 5:39  
**RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.**

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**RESOLUTION WAIVING THE COMPETITIVE BID PROCESS AND AWARDING TWO CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF:**

**1) A FORWARD-LOOKING INFRARED (FLIR) ULTRA 8500XRTCAMERA FROM FLIR, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHT DOLLARS AND NINE CENTS (\$269,898.09), AND  
2) A BROADCAST MICROWAVE SYSTEM (BMS) FROM BMS, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY-NINE DOLLARS (\$26,599.00) FOR THE OAKLAND POLICE AIR SUPPORT UNIT HELICOPTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Oakland Police Department (hereinafter "OPD") has long used helicopters as an air support platform to improve police services in the City of Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of a police helicopter equipped with Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) technology speeds police services to remote areas of the City, improves officer safety, and improves both fire and crime prevention response efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Police Department effectively uses its FLIR equipped helicopter resources to address serious narcotic offenses; and

**WHEREAS**, the Police Department's current FLIR Inc. camera has exceeded its useful life and is unable to be repaired; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department seeks to replace the existing FLIR Inc. camera with a new FLIR 8500XRT camera which is manufactured by FLIR, Inc. and purchase a Broadcast Microwave System (BMS) downlink manufactured by BMS, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS**, by purchasing the infrared camera and microwave system from FLIR, Inc. and BMS, Inc. the City will save on the overall replacement cost because these vendors offer the only compatible equipment and purchasing from other vendors would require purchasing additional equipment to replace equipment that is not in need of replacement; and

**WHEREAS**, the total cost of the new equipment is \$296,497.09 including tax (8.75%); now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That, pursuant to Oakland Municipal Code section 2.04.050.1.5, the City Council finds and determines on the basis of the City Administrator's report accompanying this item, that it is in the City's best interests to waive the competitive bid process for two purchases: 1) the purchase of a new FLIR 8500XRT camera from FLIR, Inc. and 2) the purchase of a Broadcast Microwave System (BMS) downlink from BMS, Inc., because these vendors offer the only compatible equipment, and purchasing this equipment from other vendors will require purchasing additional equipment to replace existing equipment that is not in need of replacement but would be

required to make the new equipment compatible with the overall existing system and increase costs to the City; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator, or her designee, to award a contract for the purchase of a new FLIR Inc. 8500XRT camera in an amount not-to-exceed two hundred sixty nine thousand dollars eight hundred ninety-eight dollars and nine cents (\$269,898.09) including applicable sales tax to FLIR, Inc.; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator, or her designee, to award a contract for the purchase of a BMS downlink system in an amount not-to-exceed twenty six thousand five hundred ninety-nine dollars and no cents (\$26,599.00) including applicable sales tax to BMS, Inc.; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That funds used to complete the purchase of a new FLIR Inc. 8500 XRT and the BMS downlink are available and will be drawn from Department of Justice Grant Administration Fund (2112), Bureau of Administration Organization (106110), Miscellaneous Contract Services Account (54919), and Agency wide Administration Program (PS01), and COPS More Grant Project (H95320); and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Administrator is hereby authorized to modify, extend, or amend said agreement, provided that no additional funds shall be allocated without prior Council approval; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That all contracts authorized hereunder shall be approved by the City Attorney for form and legality prior to execution and placed on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and  
PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
LaTonda Simmons  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council,  
City of Oakland, California