

**Donald J. Lee, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**



**Key West**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**TO: Mr. Bob Vitas, City Manager**

**FROM: Donald J. Lee Jr., Chief of Police**

**DATE: September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**RE: Authorize the purchase of 20 COBAN "Edge" In-Car video recording systems from COBAN Technologies in the amount of \$115,990.00.**

**Action Statement:**

Authorize the purchase of (20) "Edge" In-Car video recording systems at a total cost of \$115,990.00 from COBAN Technologies of Houston, TX. This purchase is authorized through City Ordinance Section 2-844(a)(b), Brand Name Specifications and 2-797(1), Sole Source Procurement.

**Background:**

In 2005 the City of Key West Police Department purchased the ICOP brand of in-car video recording systems which included the in-car units consisting of a DVR, two cameras and the "back end" server which allowed for the downloading, archiving, and retrieval of the in-car video/audio recordings. From the beginning of the implementation of this system, problems with the downloading, storage, and retrieval of ICOP videos became problematic. Then in 2010 ICOP filed for bankruptcy and the department was left in limbo for approximately six months while the future of the ICOP system was determined. Safety Vision Corporation did eventually purchase ICOPS remaining inventory and agreed to provide repair services for our existing units. At the time, Safety Vision had no plans for introducing a new product or updating the existing inventory. In light of the problems experienced from the beginning of ICOP use and the subsequent uncertainty surrounding the future of this product, the Key West Police Department began the process of testing, evaluating, and selecting a viable long term replacement for the aging and unreliable ICOP system.

From this process two vendors, both of which are long term industry leaders of in-car police video recording systems, were identified and selected for testing and evaluation; COBAN Technologies, manufacturer of the "Edge" in-car video system and Panasonic, manufacturer of the "Arbitrator" in-car video system. Product orientation and demonstration sessions were held for both companies at the Police Department attended by the Cities IT director, Patti McLaughlin, Chief Lee, and other Police Department Command Staff members.



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Key West Police Department 1604 N. Roosevelt Blvd. Key West, FL 33040 (305) 809-1111  
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The COBAN and Panasonic systems were installed in a Key West Police Department Patrol Vehicle for field testing and evaluation over a period of six months. Officers from the day and night shift either participated in the orientation and demonstration process or drove the vehicles utilizing the systems in their daily patrol duties. The Officers that participated in the testing drove both vehicles and were able to properly test and evaluate each system objectively.

The results of the evaluation by the Officers were strongly in favor of the COBAN system. The evaluation of the “backend” server functions of downloading; storage, archiving, and retrieval of data of the COBAN system were evaluated and supported by the Cities IT Department as the selection over the Panasonic system to replace ICOP.

The cost of the COBAN “Edge” units being installed in the vehicles is \$5,790.00 inclusive of all equipment, warranties, support, options, and servers. The cost of the Panasonic “Arbitrator” units inclusive is \$7,723.00. The cost of 20 additional ICOP units is \$4,192.00.

### **Purpose and Justification:**

The in-car video recording systems described are necessary to maintain the essential function of recording both video and audio of Police activities relating to the collection of evidence and the accurate documentation of Police interactions with the public and the environment they serve.

The products being authorized for purchase from COBAN Technologies meet or exceed the Key West Police Department and the Key West Information Technology Departments requirements for an in-car video recording system.

### **Options:**

One option is to purchase the 20 COBAN “Edge” in-car video recording systems from COBAN Technologies per the attached quote for a total cost of \$115,990.00. This option allows for the continuation and overall enhancement of the current system.

Another option is to forgo the purchase of these in-car systems. This would result in a quickly deteriorating ability to meet the requirements of this program while hindering the department’s ability to carry out its primary mission of providing high quality, professional police services to its citizens.



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**Financial Impact:**

This purchase is a budgeted item for Fiscal Year 2012/2013 in the Police Departments Capital Fund Budget.

**Recommendation:**

Authorize the purchase of (20) COBAN Technologies "Edge" in-car video recording systems for installation in KWPD Patrol Vehicles.



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