




MEMORANDUM

Date: May 10, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Albert P. Childress
City Manager 

From: Sean T. Brandenburg
Chief of Police

Subject: Authorize the Key West Police Department to purchase the Axon Virtual Reality (VR) Training system in the amount of \$111,322.04, utilizing a five-year payment plan.

Introduction

The Key West Police Department is requesting authorization to purchase the Axon Virtual Reality (VR) Training system in the amount of \$111,322.04, utilizing a five-year payment plan (see below). This purchase is made pursuant to Ordinance 2-844 (A) – Brand Name.

Five-year Payment Plan:

- Year 1 \$23,863.00*
- Year 2 \$21,707.79
- Year 3 \$21,813.54
- Year 4 \$21,951.59
- Year 5 \$21,986.12

**Note: The Key West Police Department has a \$24,000.00 credit with Axon due to an unused portion of the Axon Bundle we purchased in this current fiscal year (FY 22/23). Therefore, there will be no funds needed for Year 1.*

Background

For law enforcement officers, training is vital to improving the outcome of the various situations we encounter daily. Training is also critical in improving our relationship with the community we serve. The Axon VR Training system represents the future of public safety training by providing immersive de-escalation training that ultimately makes both officers and communities safer.

The Axon VR Training system is a scenario based, simulator training that provides officers a platform to build their critical thinking skills by progressing through increasingly complex scenarios requiring them to quickly make crucial decisions under evolving conditions. The system provides scenarios related to mental health issues, combative subjects, subjects suffering from physical and/or emotional trauma, peer intervention, and many other real-world situations. Axon will also continue to provide updates to training scenarios to stay current with changing trends. According to Axon's website, VR training has a knowledge retention rate of 75%, which far exceeds the knowledge retention rates of traditional law enforcement training methods.

The Key West Police Department currently utilizes Axon TASER 7s. The Axon VR Training system integrates with the TASER 7, providing us the ability to use the TASER device as a training tool in various Axon VR scenarios. Another advantage of the Axon VR Training system is the easy deployment of the all-in-one wireless unit. The VR system can be used anywhere if it can connect to Wi-Fi. This will provide us with the ability to be mobile with the VR system and demonstrate it outside the department. If this purchase is approved, we intend to also use the VR system as a community engagement tool and allow members of the community to experience the exact scenarios and training we are providing our officers.

Procurement

As stated above, the Key West Police Department currently has a \$24,000.00 credit with Axon due to an unused portion of the Axon Bundle we purchased in this current fiscal year (FY 22/23). We request authorization to use the \$24,000.00 credit as the Year 1 payment. We also request the future payments of \$21,707.79 (Year 2 – FY 23/24), \$21,813.54 (Year 3 – FY 24/25), \$21,951.59 (Year 4 – FY25/26), and \$21,986.12 (Year 5 – FY26/27) are approved in future Key West Police Department budgets, in account #101-2101-521-6400, Machinery and Equipment. The total amount of this purchase will be \$111,322.04.

Recommendation

The Key West Police Department recommends the purchase of the Axon VR Training system. We consider the Axon VR Training system a valuable tool to improve the effectiveness and safety of our officers. Additionally, we believe the Axon VR Training system will support our continued efforts to engage with the community in a positive way.

Exhibits:

Exhibit A – Axon Quote

Exhibit B – Axon Master Services and Purchasing Agreement

Exhibit C – Axon Sole Source Justification Letter