

CITY of WARWICK

Colonel Bradford E. Connor
Chief of Police



Frank J. Picozzi
Mayor

POLICE DEPARTMENT

99 Veterans Memorial Drive
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886-4617
Telephone: (401) 468-4200

FEB 03 2022

January 20, 2022

Mrs. Patricia Peshka, Purchasing Agent
City of Warwick
3275 Post Road
Warwick RI 02886

Re: Request for Spending Authorization – Flock License Plate Reading Cameras
C. O. 56-6, “Exception to Bid” Sole Source Vendor
Funding Source: Federal Asset Forfeiture 364-0400

Dear Mrs. Peshka:

The department is seeking authorization under the provisions of City Ordinance 56-6, “Exception to Bid,” to expend funds to purchase 10 Flock Safety Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPRs). The exception to bid requirement is requested because Flock Safety cameras are currently the only system of its kind being used in Rhode Island. Currently, there are approximately 60 other Flock System cameras in place in various other cities including Cranston, Woonsocket and Pawtucket with more Rhode Island police agencies acquiring the cameras in 2022. Additionally, the Flock Safety ALPRs are live in 1200 cities in 40 states and over 700 police departments and allows for national and local sharing of information.

The Flock Safety ALPR is not your traditional live feed camera, rather it is a device that records and stores data. The technology captures still photographs of license plates and vehicle characteristics as they travel on public roads. The cameras do not independently record people or faces but can be used to solve and reduce violent and property crimes. The cameras will never be used for traffic enforcement, as they cannot track speed or identify unregistered or uninsured vehicles. They capture objective evidence in plain sight, such as license plates, and can never be used for facial recognition.

While the Flock Safety ALPRs do not result in any unwarranted invasion of one’s privacy, they capture much more than just license plates. They allow investigators to search footage by vehicle type, make, color, and other unique attributes; identify the state of a license plate; and capture temporary plates, paper plates, and vehicles without plates. They are able to cover two (2) lanes of traffic and vehicles traveling up to 100 mph. Investigators are also able to input vehicle data into the system and receive a “HIT” and alert within seconds of a camera detecting that vehicle. The cities of Cranston and Pawtucket have shared their data and success stories with us. In the short time that they have used Flock Safety they have seen arrests increase significantly and have had a record number of recovered stolen property. Just as important, it has been used to locate missing and endangered people.

This system focuses on privacy and security and is built on a foundation of public trust and transparency. All data is encrypted and stored on an AWS GovCloud for maximum security compliance. Data is permanently and automatically deleted after a 30 day period and all footage is never shared or sold to 3rd parties. Use of the system by license holders will be strictly governed by department policy and the system allows for audits to ensure proper use. Furthermore, the system

comes with a transparency portal which is intended to promote the ethical use of the technology. This portal is a public facing dashboard which can be shared via the department's social media or website which allows us to share policies, usage and public safety outcomes related to the ALPRs.

This system can also be purchased privately by local businesses which provides a huge benefit to law enforcement. Through the sharing of data and the access to privately owned cameras throughout the city we have the potential to double our coverage. Flock Safety, along with members of our police department have already begun to reach out to local businesses to gain interest and support for this program. Having businesses, particularly within our retail and commercial zones fund their own cameras would allow for the city purchased cameras to be placed strategically throughout the city and cover more territory.

Pricing for each unit is \$2,500 per camera, per year plus a \$250 one-time implementation fee. Included in this fee is the camera hardware: ALPR unit, solar or DC power, mounting equipment and maintenance warrantee. Also included is the hosting and analytics: cloud hosting, unlimited user licenses, hot list integration & alerts and ongoing software enhancements. The company offers a 45 day PPI or *Project Prove It* trial. If after the 45 days after installation we are not satisfied, Flock will remove the cameras at no cost.

Flock Safety requires a two year contract which would result in costs of \$52,500 for ten (10) cameras; \$27,500 being paid in year one and \$25,000 being paid in year two. If approved, funding for these expenses would be allocated from Federal Asset Forfeiture fund 364-0400. The two (2) year contract period would commence upon installation of the cameras.

Sincerely,



Colonel Bradford E. Connor

Chief of Police

Warwick Police Department

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