

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager or designee to execute an agreement and necessary documents with Flock Group, Inc. in the amount of \$240,000 over a two-year term; and amend the FY 2024/25 and 2025/26 Operating Budgets

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

STAFF: Tim Herbert, Chief of Police
Michael Thompson, Police Lieutenant

TITLE/RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving and authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute an agreement and necessary documents with Flock Group, Inc. (“Flock”) in the amount of \$218,550, plus an additional \$21,450 for contingencies, for a total not to exceed amount of \$240,000 over a two-year term for the purchase of hardware and software for Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR) and surveillance cameras; and amending the FY 2024/25 General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$120,000 and the FY 2025/26 General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$103,500.

FISCAL IMPACT

If approved, the total cost of the agreement would be funded by the General Fund with a not to exceed amount of \$240,000. The amount for contingencies of \$21,450, included in the total contract amount of \$240,000, is being requested to allow staff the ability to add additional cameras or upgrade existing cameras, if new or innovative technology improvements are offered by Flock during the term of the agreement. A savings of \$16,500 from the elimination of the current system reduces the budget increase request to \$223,500.

The cost of the agreement would require General Fund Operating Budget amendments, as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>General Fund Budget Amendment</u>
2024/25	\$120,000
2025/26	\$103,500
Total Budget Amendment	<u>\$223,500</u>



General Fund Projection

Placeholders for the proposed Flock agreement costs were **included** in the 2024/25 – 2025/26 General Fund projection presented to the City Council at the Mid-Year updated in January 2025. Therefore, approval of this contract will have **no impact** on the projected General Fund results, which remain unchanged from the last update.

General Fund operating revenues are projected to be sufficient in the two-year period to cover operating and one-time expenses with no deficit spending from ongoing operations. However, \$1,409,000 is projected to be needed as a transfer into the General Fund from the Budget Stabilization Fund to increase the General Fund Reserve of 30% of operating expenses per Budget and Fiscal Policies, No. 10-5 (<https://www.brentwoodca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/220/638245971080470000>).

BACKGROUND

The Council/Administrative Policy No. 10-7, Purchasing Policy, requires that purchases of goods or services over \$50,000 per vendor, per fiscal year must be approved by City Council (<http://www.brentwoodca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/222/638023764864070000>).

The Brentwood Police Department has historically used Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras to assist with criminal investigations. ALPR technology captures digital images of license plates on vehicles as they pass cameras located throughout the City. The license plate is scanned at a high rate of speed and crosschecked against a database searchable only by law enforcement personnel. If a vehicle is identified as stolen or wanted, the communications center at Brentwood Police Department is alerted. The ALPR system stores the location, time, vehicle information, and photos of the vehicle and license plate.

With the current system in place, knowing the license plate number or knowing an approximate time a vehicle passes through a camera location are the only useful investigative methods during a criminal investigation reported after the time of occurrence. Although limited, this technology has been extremely successful in assisting Brentwood Police Department in apprehending criminals committing crimes in both Brentwood and other jurisdictions. This technology has also been beneficial in locating missing persons that are at risk due to age, mental health, or suspicious in nature and has been instrumental in solving various crimes in our city, including



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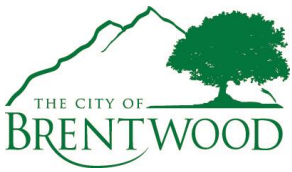
various property crimes such as theft, and various crimes against persons including a homicide.

Flock Group, Inc. not only utilizes these same investigative methods, but also expands the searching capabilities to include vehicle description alone without needing to know the license plate. This is possible through their patented proprietary machine vision technology that analyzes license plates, state recognition, and vehicle attributes such as color, type, make and objects (roof rack, bumper stickers, etc.) based on image analytics (not car registration data). This "Vehicle Fingerprint Technology" provides an ability to search without the need for a license plate and setup alerts based on vehicle description. It is the only license plate reader with "Visual Search" that can transform digital images from any source into an investigative lead by finding matching vehicles based on the vehicle attributes in the uploaded photo.

If criminal activity takes place and a vehicle is associated with that crime and a witness can provide a general description (color, type, make or unique characteristic) of the vehicle without knowing the license plate, this information can be entered into the database to further assist and potentially locate or further identify the vehicle and its occupants if it passes an ALPR camera. This expanded searching capability can significantly improve the solvability of any investigation because many times, criminals using vehicles to commit crimes will remove or conceal license plates or witnesses simply cannot memorize or identify specific license plates under duress.

While the current system in place in the City of Brentwood has proven to be effective over the years, the current cameras are outdated and lack the technology and software capabilities currently offered through Flock Group, Inc. Furthermore, the current system is nearing the end of its life cycle, as these cameras often are in need of repair and are often out of service for lengthy periods of time. Under the current system, the City of Brentwood owns the hardware (ALPR cameras) and is responsible for the maintenance of them.

The current stationary ALPR cameras utilized by the Brentwood Police Department require electrical power supply. Flock Group, Inc. cameras are powered by solar, thus offering a greater flexibility in the specific placement of the cameras, without the need or concern of supplying power to the camera. Furthermore, the cameras are leased to the City, meaning all maintenance is handled by Flock Group, Inc., ensuring the cameras remain operational.



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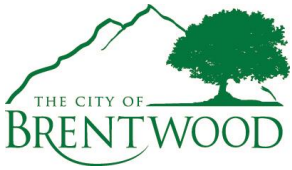
The current fleet ALPR cameras are affixed on top of the exterior roofs of six patrol vehicles when operational. Flock Group, Inc. partners with Axon Enterprises, Inc., who is the current supplier for the City's patrol vehicle dash cameras. Every patrol vehicle in the Brentwood Police Department vehicle fleet is equipped with an Axon dash camera with existing built-in ALPR capability that automatically integrates into Flock Group, Inc.'s database, thus potentially expanding the Department's fleet coverage from approximately 20% to 100% and eliminating the need for additional added hardware. Currently, Brentwood Police Department's dash cameras are capturing license plates, but without Flock Group, Inc.'s software, there is no database to collect and store the data or run searches on the license plates captured, rendering this feature useless.

Flock Group, Inc. offers a civilian package where homeowners associations ("HOA's"), businesses and neighborhood watch groups can purchase the hardware (ALPR cameras) privately, and the data collected from their cameras would integrate into Flock Group, Inc.'s database and allow it to be searchable by Brentwood Police Department staff and other law enforcement personnel. (Note: civilians who purchase this package are not able to search the database themselves; that feature remains available only to law enforcement.) Currently, one HOA in the City of Brentwood has purchased Flock Group, Inc. ALPR cameras as part of their neighborhood watch efforts. It is anticipated that if Brentwood Police Department utilizes Flock Group, Inc., more businesses and neighborhood communities would be willing to invest in this technology privately, thus expanding coverage of the City without additional cost to the City.

In addition to ALPR cameras, Flock Group, Inc. also provides surveillance cameras that integrate into their database. These cameras are solar powered, have pan/tilt/zoom capabilities and can be strategically located in the City wherever there is a spike in crime trends and to monitor specific public areas.

Due to the success of the existing ALPR program, staff is confident the City of Brentwood and its citizens would benefit from Flock Group, Inc.'s patented technology that would increase the Police Department's solvability rates in criminal investigations. The improved technology and search capabilities would also cut down on staff time spent manually searching thousands of images of vehicles during a specific time frame, in addition to the staff time required to maintain the hardware equipment and keep it operational.

Brentwood Police Department staff recommends purchasing thirty-two (32) ALPR cameras and three (3) surveillance cameras. These 32 ALPR cameras will replace



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the existing 19 ALPR cameras that are all currently in need of replacement and adding an additional 13. By adding 32 ALPR cameras, Brentwood staff has been able to strategically cover a few select major intersections and nearly all the egress points surrounding the city, thus potentially capturing a majority of all vehicles leaving the city limits. Adding 3 surveillance cameras can be strategically placed throughout the city to provide supplemental coverage in areas prone to criminal activity or public nuisance that would otherwise require dedicated staff time to monitor. Due to the City's existing dash cameras and their existing ALPR capabilities, no additional hardware would be required to purchase mobile fleet cameras and the patrol fleet would have automatic 100% fleet coverage.

In order to provide additional information to the City Council and the public, staff has included a number of attachments to this staff report, including the proposed Resolution and draft agreement, but also a list and map of Vigilant camera locations, a list and map of proposed locations for Flock cameras, a Flock overview, the Flock's Privacy Commitment, Council questions and responses, and Flock Media FAQs.

The Police Department is utilizing Council/Administrative Policy, Purchasing Policy No.: 10-7 Section 5.3 Sole Source/Non-Competitive Negotiations to select this vendor.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Not Applicable.

PREVIOUS ACTION

See attachment 1.

DATE OF NOTICE

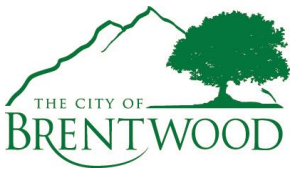
Not Applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

Not Applicable.

ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S)

Not approving this recommendation will prevent purchasing and utilizing this ALPR technology and surveillance technology that is available to better serve the



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community, investigate and solve crime, deter crime, enhance public safety and improve the quality of life of citizens and save staff time on monitoring locations and searching databases for leads.

If not approved, the Police Department requests that the item is continued with direction for staff to return with additional information.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Previous Actions
2. Resolution
3. Flock Group, Inc. Agreement
4. Vigilant Camera Locations
5. Map of Vigilant Cameras
6. Flock Cameras Proposed Locations
7. Map of Proposed Flock Cameras
8. Flock Overview
9. Privacy Commitment
10. Media FAQs
11. Council Questions & Responses