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CITY of NOVI CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item H
March 3, 2008

SUBJECT: Approval to award bid for the purchase of Taser Equipment for the Uniform Division at the Novi Police Department to Michigan Taser Distributing, sole source provider, in the amount of \$46,915 and to VS Visual Statement, Inc. in the amount of \$11,840 for the purchase of Laser Car Crash and Crime Scene Mapping Technology.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Police *DEM*

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL *[Signature]*

EXPENDITURE REQUIRED	\$58,755
AMOUNT BUDGETED	N/A
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	Included in Budget Amendment – 3/5/08
LINE ITEM NUMBER	Various Forfeiture Funds (266-266.00-741.000 and 266.266.00-802.000)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Continued use of Federal Forfeiture Funds: Staff recommendation is to proceed with the following two purchases as the next phase of Federal Forfeiture fund expenditures. As previously reported, funds/properties forfeited by the federal government are authorized expenditures guided by federal statute and policy. These statutes and policies are summarized and explained in a U.S. Department of Justice publication: *A Guide to Equitable Sharing of Federally Forfeited Property for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies*. This document denotes the guidelines set forth by the U.S. Department of Justice. Both of the proposed purchases meet the federal guidelines and would significantly enhance the operations, effectiveness and overall preparedness of the Novi Police Department.

As the attached spreadsheet details, as of December 31, 2007 there remains a balance of \$279,349 in Federal Forfeiture funds. If the recommended expenditures are approved, there would be an available balance of \$220,594 for future appropriation.

Taser Equipment:

Evidence suggests that Tasers reduce injuries to officers and suspects resulting from use of force situations. Tasers were introduced to the Police Department in 2004 and have been used (15) times since their purchase. The Department currently has (24) Tasers for use by all members of the Department. There are usually (24) holsters available for use as well depending on maintenance issues.

It is proposed that the Novi Police Department purchase an additional (40) Tasers and holsters to outfit the remaining patrol officers with a Taser as part of their uniform compliment. Thereafter, a Taser will be supplied to new officers as part of their initial uniform. Currently, the practice is such that officers are issued a Taser each day during shift change. The rotation and sharing of the Tasers has definitely impacted the useful life of the equipment. Historically, items assigned to an individual on a permanent basis are better maintained and have a longer useful life.

In terms of determining whether the Taser has reduced officer or suspect injuries, the Novi Police

Department does not have enough data each year to make a statistically accurate analysis of this. However, from the (15) incidents where the Taser was used, we can ascertain that the risk to the officer and suspect was reduced.

Nationally, there is significant support for the idea that Tasers do reduce officer and suspect injuries. Some studies include:

- Since 2003, the Oakland County Sheriffs Department have had 257 Taser deployments with zero (0) lawsuits, zero (0) officer injuries and zero (0) suspect injuries.
- The Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) conducted a study of (40) agencies in Michigan using Tasers and studied 432 deployments. The results of their study indicated that the use of Taser reduced excessive force litigation by 54%.
- Since the use of Taser was introduced in Phoenix, Arizona, suspect injuries dropped 67%.
- Officer injuries dropped 50% and serious suspect injuries dropped 82% in Austin, Texas.
- South Bend, Indiana reported that officer injuries dropped 66% from 2003 to present with 632 deployments.

The Taser is not a replacement for, nor appropriate for deadly force encounters, however in arrest situations where deadly force is not an issue, the Taser has been effective in reducing injuries to suspects and officers, where the arrest process would have otherwise been a hand to hand fight or the use of other intermediate weapons.

A Taser suit was purchased by the Department in 2006 to enhance the training provided annually to officers in the use of the Taser. This suit allows an officer to fire training cartridges at a live, moving target without endangering the test subject. However, it is vital that officers fire live cartridges during training as well. This proposal also includes the purchase of enough training and live cartridges to allow each officer the opportunity to fire two (2) of each type.

Laser Car Crash and Crime Scene Mapping Software:

Currently the Novi Police Department has no computer software that can be used for the mapping of serious car crash scenes or crime scenes. The multiple measurements that are needed are typically taken by hand and the various diagrams and sketches that are needed are also drawn by hand. The process of taking hand measurements at a car crash scene often takes at least two (2) hours, and during this time the roadway is typically closed to all traffic. At crime scenes the hand measurements can take several hours or longer, depending on the complexity of the scene.

In addition to this time, the drawings and diagrams that are needed after the initial measurements are taken, are prepared at the station, and often takes even longer (2-6 hours in many cases) to prepare.

There is and has been some newer technology that allows for LASER measurements of the distances and reference points at crash and crime scenes. In addition, there is also a software package as part of the operating system that takes the data and allows for a computer generated crash scene diagram or crime scene map/sketch.

Police agencies currently using such technology (Oakland County Sheriff's Department, Michigan State Police and the Farmington Hills Police Department) indicate that they are able to reduce their road closure time down to roughly 20-30 minutes, instead of two (2) hours or longer. In addition, the measurements that are taken are generally more reliable, and also feed into the software which then drastically reduces the amount of time to prepare the crash scene diagram. The devices work in a similar fashion at crime scenes, where room dimensions, measurements to fixed and movable points are needed, and documentation of placement of items in a room or area is desired.

Based on available products on the market, VS Visual Statement, Inc. is the only provider authorized to sell the technology that we have determine meets all of our specifications. Modules included in this technology are:

- Interview Pro – the only statement taking software program in existence
- Crash Math – provides 750 automatic reconstruction calculations
- Vehicle Specifications Database – annually updated database of 3,500 vehicles providing precise specifications regarding size, weight, etc.
- Vista CrashFX – momentum analysis calculator with built in time / distance engine
- Vista Diagramming - provides the ability to interface to any type of measuring hardware and allow integration of basic drawing with sophisticated scene measuring systems.
- 3D Animation – allows 3D viewing and movement of objects with the ability to add environmental effects, adjustments of the yaw, roll and pitch based on the scaled drawing and the investigators evidence data.

The technology is a long term use type item that is not likely to go obsolete anytime in the future – the formulas that are used and the science behind it is time tested.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval to award bid for the purchase of Taser Equipment for the Uniform Division at the Novi Police Department to Michigan Taser Distributing, sole source provider, in the amount of \$46,915 and to VS Visual Statement, Inc. in the amount of \$11,840 for the purchase of Laser Car Crash and Crime Scene Mapping Technology.

	1	2	Y	N
Mayor Landry				
Mayor Pro Tem Capello				
Council Member Crawford				
Council Member Gatt				

	1	2	Y	N
Council Member Margolis				
Council Member Mutch				
Council Member Staudt				

**City of Novi
Federal Forfeiture Funds
Cumulative Budget and Actual - Revenue & Expenditures Through December 31, 2007**

	Cumulative Budget thru 2007-8	Actual Revenue & Expenditures
Federal Forfeiture Funds Received		\$ 6,530,977
Interest Income		385,459
Total Revenue		<u>6,916,436</u>
Expenditures		
General Fund Reimbursement: OT and other costs associated with investigation	\$ 89,227	\$ 89,227
Two additional uniformed patrol officers (first year costs)	142,243	142,243
Vehicles (9 patrol 2005-6 and 6 patrol; 2 unmarked 2006-7; 8 patrol and 2 unmarked 2007-8)(\$227,970;\$184,564; and \$233,000, respectively)	645,534	439,446
Data Processing (CLEMIS, In-car laptops, and PC/Printer Replacement Program)	255,365	211,366
Communications Equipment	229,641	229,641
- Digital In-car Cameras	304,146	112,028
Integrated Financial Management System: Proportional share of the Police Department.	205,000	99,429
Building & Building Improvements:		
Critical Needs Existing Police Facility	519,050	-
Indoor Firearms Range at Field Services Complex	1,725,300	769,965
Transfer to the Police Building Construction/Debt Fund	2,521,581	2,521,581
Total Expenditures	<u>6,637,087</u>	<u>4,614,926</u>
Excess of Revenue over Expenditures		<u>\$ 2,301,510</u>
Balance Available for Contingencies or City Council Appropriation	<u>\$ 279,349</u>	