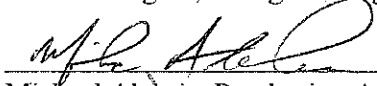
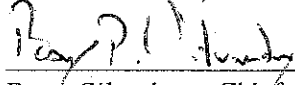


MEMORANDUM
Purchasing Division
Police Department

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TO: Albert J. Rigoni, Village Manager

FROM: 
Michael Aleksic, Purchasing Agent


Barry Silverberg, Chief of Police

DATE: September 11, 2009

SUBJECT: Agenda Item – Buffer Zone Protection Program Grant Purchase
Firearms and Use of Force Simulator

Background

The Skokie Police Department has been awarded a \$199,000 Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) grant by the Department of Homeland Security. The funds provided by the BZPP are provided to increase the preparedness capabilities of jurisdictions responsible for the safety and security of communities surrounding high-priority critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) assets through allowable planning and equipment acquisition.

The BZPP grant process required comprehensive research, analysis and coordination between the Department of Homeland Security, Illinois Terrorism Task Force, Skokie Police Department and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. This combined effort was to determine the best authorized expenditure of the grant money in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Federal Government.

As a result, the following expenditures were applied for and approved by the Department of Homeland Security:

- \$138,495 for the purchase of a VirTra 300-HD Firearms and Use of Force Simulator.
- \$60,505 for the purchase and installation of a video surveillance and security system at the North Side Water Reclamation Plant at 3500 Howard, which has been named by the State of Illinois as a CIKR to be included in the BZPP.

At this time, staff is seeking Board approval for the purchase of the VirTra 300-HD Firearms and Use of Force Simulator. Board approval for the purchase of the video surveillance and security systems will be requested in the future when the Contractor selection process is concluded.

Project and Budget Amount: #PG0054 \$199,000

#338096

Tabulation

VirTra Systems, Inc., Tempe, AZ.

\$138,495.00

Recommendation

It is recommended that a contract for the purchase of a video based, multi-screen Firearms and Use of Force Simulator, the VirTra 300-HD, be awarded on a sole source basis to VirTra Systems, Tempe, Arizona, in the amount of \$138,495. The purchase of this proprietary equipment includes Hybrid HD-CGI Software, HD display equipment, Threat-Fire II Belt, training platform, wireless base station, all required hardware and accessories, installation, and first-year equipment and software maintenance.

Comments

VirTra Systems has been in the business of simulation technology since 1993. The VirTra 300-HD is considered the best firearms and use of force simulator in the industry. VirTra Systems is the only manufacturer of multi-screen video-based firearm training equipment. The proprietary Hybrid HD-CGI software displays high-definition scenarios across multiple screens, which gives officers the ability to simulate shooting and tactical situations. Trainees are surrounded by high definition displays, and are able to shoot (with provided simulation weapon) at targets moving across the screens. The system allows for the ability to train critical use of force and firearms tasks at a level currently unavailable to the Skokie PD.

The VirTra 300-HD is currently being used by the Department of Defense (US Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force), U.S. Marshalls, Department of Homeland Security, Lockheed Martin and numerous state and local law enforcement agencies across the country. Skokie PD staff evaluated the system and found that it exceeded all expectations. A DVD demonstration of the system is available for viewing.

The purchase of the 300-HD is being requested at this time in order to avoid the pending price increase. The system equipment will be stored until the new Police Station is completed, at which time the system will be installed. Future annual maintenance costs for the system will be approximately 6% of the original purchase price. Skokie PD will budget for this expense in future years, however, these costs may be offset by allowing the VirTra Systems to use the system as a demonstration tool to potential customers in this region.

cc: John Lockerby
Commander Brian Baker

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