



CITY OF SAN MATEO

City Hall
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Agenda Report

Agenda Number: 15

Section Name: {{section.name}}

Account Number: 10-5141

File ID: {{item.tracking_number}}

TO: City Council

FROM: Drew Corbett, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Police Department

MEETING DATE: September 19, 2022

SUBJECT:
Axon Virtual Reality Training Simulator – Amendment

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Master Services and Purchasing Agreement with Axon, Inc., to provide for a virtual-reality training simulator system for a ten-year term in the amount of \$298,126.10, for a new cumulative agreement total of \$1,565,427.68; adopt a Resolution to approve the use of an alternative purchasing method; and authorize the Chief of Police to execute the amendment in substantially the form presented.

BACKGROUND:

Officer training is critical to improving policing outcomes and relationships between police agencies and the communities they serve. Consistent with existing policy, the San Mateo Police Department has increased its emphasis on training that focuses on developing the skills, empathy and de-escalation tactics to effectively respond to calls for service involving people experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The San Mateo Police Department wishes to enhance current training capabilities via the purchase of a virtual reality simulator training system that will provide immersive de-escalation training to enhance safety.

The Axon Virtual Reality (VR) Simulator Training System has been identified as the best fit for our agency. The Axon VR System is a comprehensive product that will allow officers to sharpen their critical thinking skills and practice the application of de-escalation techniques with a variety of dynamic and increasingly complex scenarios, all with the goal of providing a more optimal response to calls for service and building trust.

The San Mateo Police Department currently has a multi-year Master Services and Purchasing Agreement with Axon, Inc., for the provision of body worn cameras as well as tasers. Axon's VR Simulator System integrates seamlessly with the Police Department's existing taser equipment. Staff proposes amending the agreement to provide for a virtual-reality training simulator system for a ten-year term in the amount of \$298,126.10. By agreeing to the ten-year term, staff negotiated a discount of \$4,885 off the standard annual fee (which represents \$48,854 over the life of the contract). Furthermore, the City may terminate the contract for convenience at any time.

Staff requests approval of the purchase pursuant to SMMC 3.60.070(h)(3), which allows the Council to use any purchasing process that is in the best interest of the City. Axon is a leader in the industry, and continuing to use their products meets the Police Department's interest in that it will not require changes in how we train, operate, or manage data. Staff has been pleased with Axon's responsiveness and customer service. For these reasons, staff believes it to be in the best interest of the City to proceed with this amendment to the Master Services and Purchasing Agreement with Axon, Inc.

BUDGET IMPACT:

The cost of amending the Master Services and Purchasing Agreement to provide for the VR Training System amounts to \$29,812.61 annually. Funding for this cost is available in the Police Department's operating budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

This action is not a project subject to CEQA, because it can be seen with certainty that it will not cause a physical change in the environment. (Public Resources Code Section 21065.)

NOTICE PROVIDED

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

ATTACHMENTS

Att 1 – Proposed Resolution

Att 2 – Amendment No. 1

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