

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 10, 2025

PREPARED BY: Daniel Hurtado, Public Safety Analyst
Angelique Hodges, Management Aide

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO CONTRACT NO. C47070 WITH FLOCK SAFETY FOR EXPANSION OF AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION (ALPR) SYSTEM; APPROPRIATION AND USE OF CITIZENS OPTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY/SUPPLEMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES FUNDS

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. C47070 with Flock Safety in the amount of \$138,750 for the purchase and installation of 44 additional cameras.
2. Authorize appropriation in the amount of \$133,000 from Fund 229-Public Safety Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund Balance (COPS/SLESF) to Account No. 2294210-4391400.
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute Amendment No. 1 and any necessary documents, and to make non-monetary modifications as needed.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On February 15, 2024, the City Council approved a five-year agreement (Contract No. C47070) with Flock Safety to consolidate earlier phases of the City's ALPR program and secure a fixed subscription rate of \$2,500 per camera per year for 113 units through June 30, 2029.

Due to the program's ongoing success in aiding real-time investigations, recovering stolen property, and deterring crime, staff recommends expanding the City's Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system by 44 additional cameras. Deployment will be based on input from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department (RSO), with priority on ingress/egress locations and public safety corridors.

The Live View cameras will be implemented as part of a 90-day pilot program, designed to evaluate the system's operational value, community acceptance, and governance framework. The program includes:

- Community outreach and education to increase transparency and awareness
- Public engagement through surveys and scheduled public viewing sessions
- Policy development and oversight refined in coordination with RSO
- Feedback collection from residents, businesses, and stakeholders

At the end of the pilot, the City Council will review the results and may choose to:

- Continue the program as proposed
- Halt further implementation
- Modify its scope or governance

This approach balances innovation with public input and ensures alignment with City values and community expectations.

To secure favorable pricing and eliminate implementation fees, the City submitted a non-binding Letter of Intent (LOI) to Flock Safety. The LOI locks in current pricing through June 30, 2029 and provides a 100% waiver of implementation fees through April 15, 2025, generating \$10,400 in cost savings.

Hardware Costs (One-Time Purchase)

<i>Camera Type</i>		<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Unit Price</i>	<i>Subtotal</i>
<i>Standard ALPR</i>	Captures license plate data and vehicle characteristics	29	\$3,000	\$87,000
<i>Fixed/Flex ALPR</i>	Location-flexible license plate recognition for temporary coverage	3	\$3,250	\$9,750
<i>Live View Cameras</i>	Evidence-capturing devices in real-time	9	\$3,000	\$27,000
<i>Long-Range ALPR</i>	Captures clear images of vehicles traveling at high speeds over long distances	3	\$5,000	\$15,000
<i>Gross Total for New Cameras</i>		44	—	\$138,750

**All cameras feature ALPR capabilities, with variations in range, mobility, and live video functionality*

Annual Subscription Costs

<i>Group</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Rate/Camera</i>	<i>Annual Breakdown</i>	<i>5-Year Total</i>
<i>Existing (Locked Rate)</i>	113	\$2,500	\$282,000	\$1,412,500
<i>New (Current Rate)</i>	44	\$3,000-\$5,000	\$138,750	\$693,750*
<i>Combined</i>	157	—	\$421,250	\$2,106,250

**This amount reflects the 48-months remaining in the 5-Year Agreement.*

The COPS/SLESF program (AB 3229) provides a minimum annual grant allocation of \$100,000 to cities for frontline law enforcement purposes.

As of the date of this report, the City has sufficient funding available. Staff request an appropriation of \$133,000 from the COPS/SLESF Fund Balance (229) to support this purchase.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office.

Strategic Plan:

This project directly supports Priority 1 of the City's Strategic Plan: Enhance the Delivery of Public Safety Services, by leveraging technology to strengthen law enforcement efforts, improve response times, and support investigative operations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The allocation of COPS/SLESF monies will fund the new equipment. The Riverside County Auditor Controller allocates the grant award in the County's Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Account (SLESA) annually.

The funds are then deposited into Fund 229 COPS/SLESF Grant Monies, established by the City. While there is currently a small fund balance on the account, an appropriation in the amount of \$133,000 to Account No. 2294210-4391400 is necessary to facilitate this request. There is no direct financial impact to General Fund with this action. The annual subscription cost will be included as part of the FY 2025-26 Annual Budget request.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. FLOCK Agreement C47070 (Original)
2. Palm Desert Police Department (RSO) SLESF Expenditure Plan
3. California Government Code Section 30061
4. Flock Amendment No. 1 C47070 DRAFT