

SULTAN CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

ITEM NO: P-4

DATE: December 16, 2010

SUBJECT: **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
Camera Surveillance System**

CONTACT PERSON: Jeff Brand, Police Chief

ISSUE:

Staff would like to give Council an overview of Sultan's COPS camera surveillance system.

SUMMARY:

The Community Oriented Policing Services or "COPS" Office is a federally funded program which was established in 1994, under the Violent Crimes Control & Law Enforcement Act, by both the House and Senate. The COPS Office was authorized to distribute \$8.8 billion over six years to help police agencies advance their Community Policing programs.

Since its inception the COPS Office has disturbed several hundred million dollars to thousands of state, local and tribal agencies, allowing thousands of officers to be hired and many more Community Policing Programs to be implemented.

Each year the COPS Office focuses on one main theme to help local police agencies improve their Community Policing programs. In 2008 the COPS Office had an emphasis on technology to combat crime.

At the same time Sultan was experiencing a dramatic increase in burglaries, thefts and malicious mischief by means of "tagging". There were several reports of locations and residents or businesses being repeatedly damaged by "tagging".

With the permission of Council and Mayor Eslick, then Acting Chief Rick Hawkins and Sultan officers began researching the cost and feasibility of developing a camera surveillance system to be installed in crime prone, public locations around the city and monitored by city hall, the police department and patrol cars.

In September 2008 Sultan was informed of an \$116,913 award to develop the surveillance system, which included twelve permanent and two portable cameras, laptop computers and printers for patrol cars and included the required infrastructure to support the system.

The original COPS application requested and planned for a total of twelve cameras, including cameras at River Front Park, the water treatment plant, wastewater treatment plant, park and ride, four cameras at Osprey Park, the Boys and Girls Club, U/S 2 at 4th Street, and two portable cameras.

Since being awarded the grant, Sultan, Sultan Police and technology have changed quite a bit. While the committee developing the surveillance system and the members of the police department has changed, the focus has not. The committee spent much of 2009 reviewing the equipment which had been proposed and submitted several budget modification requests to the COPS Office before the updated budget was approved by the COPS Office.

The revised COPS Grant still award us \$116,913 but has increased the number of cameras from twelve to twenty two permanent and two portable cameras. The original cameras are still in place but we have added cameras to other public areas such as Main Street, city shop, the Skate Park, Reece Park, City Hall, U/S 2 & 339th Ave SE and about seven more in Sultan schools.

To date cameras have been installed at River Park, the water treatment and waste water treatment plant, Osprey Park, U/S 2, park and ride and City Hall. We are awaiting parts to install cameras at Reece Park, U/S 2 & 339th Ave SE and Lake 16. After the first of the year we will also order the additional cameras for Sultan schools.

The two portable cameras which were approved by this grant are intended to be available to citizens and deputies so they can be installed in problem areas as repeat crimes occur. It is the intent to allow citizens to ask that the camera be installed at their home or business to record criminals as they steal or damage their property.

Staff have used the cameras twice so far and found the cameras were unable to zoom in as needed and were not as versatile as needed to capture criminal actions. As a result, staff has met with Irongoat Networks to solve these problems. Irongoat and staff have also consulted other technology experts and found a much more reliable camera and should meet our needs.

The new upgraded cameras have been ordered and current cameras will be taken to the school district for installation with the other seven cameras.

The COPS Grant also allows the purchase of a camera recording system with capacity to record up to seven days and radio frequency equipment which allows the cameras to send images to the city's camera recording system at city hall. These items have already been purchased and installed.

At the time of application, committee members recognized the need to view these cameras from patrol cars but also knew the Dell computers in Sultan patrol cars were aging and would not support wireless cards or allow officers to view the camera system. The grant included the purchase of upgraded ruggedized Panasonic laptop computers

which can access the city's surveillance system and Hewlett Packard printers, which allow deputies to complete paperwork and print it while still in patrol cars.

On November 9th and 10th city staff and deputies attended eight hours of training given by Irongoat Network which taught us how to access the camera system and its memory so staff can review recorded images.

At the December 16th meeting you will see a demonstration of the nearly complete surveillance system and one of the new Panasonic laptop.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City of Sultan has not expended any capital during this project but staff and volunteers have expended nearly one hundred hours planning and implementing the program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Review Watch staff and Irongoat presentation and ask any needed questions.