

**Report to / Rapport au:**

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD  
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

**27 February 2023 / 27 février 2023**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:**

**Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service / Chef de police, Service de police d'Ottawa**

**Contact Person / Personne ressource:**

**Deputy Chief Paul Burnett, Community Policing Command**

***BurnettP@ottawapolice.ca***

**SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF AUTOMATED LICENCE PLATE READERS (ALPRs)**

**OBJET: ACHAT DES CAMÉRAS EMBARQUÉES DE LECTEURS  
AUTOMATISÉS DE PLAQUES D'IMMATRICULATION (RAPIS)**

**REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board delegate authority to the Chief of Police for the purchase of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) in-car cameras to expand the number of units deployed, using the grant funds provided by the Solicitor General for this purpose, up to the amount of \$669,447.**

**RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

**Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa délègue au chef du police le pouvoir d'acheter des caméras embarquées de lecture automatique de plaques d'immatriculation (RAPI) pour augmenter le nombre d'unités déployées, en utilisant les fonds de subvention fournis par le Solliciteur général à cette fin, pour le montant de 669 447.**

**BACKGROUND**

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology has been deployed by the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) since 2016. It is an effective and efficient tool that supports public safety and strengthens roadside law enforcement. ALPR is capable of high-speed image capture that can correctly identify license plate numbers for validation or check against the Ministry of Transportation hotlist and/or OPS specific hotlist. The hotlist will contain the licence plate numbers of wanted or stolen vehicles, or license plates

associated to an AMBER Alert, plus other potential offenses that should trigger a traffic stop by the officer on duty.

ALPR technology provides the officer with an in-car alert to perform a traffic stop based upon a license plate number found on the hotlist.

The OPS currently operates five vehicles with a three-external mounted camera ALPR system, that solely utilizes ALPR technology. The OPS is seeking approval from the Ottawa Police Services Board (Board) to purchase additional devices using grant funding from the Ministry of the Solicitor General (Ministry), which will provide not only ALPR detection but also video recording capabilities with a single camera package that is internally installed within a vehicle.

Video recording enables a range of benefits including, enhanced officer accountability; improved public confidence; provides evidence and provides financial and time savings benefits such as reduced time in courts by officers thus allowing for more proactive policing. Members of the public will be informed that they are being video and audio recorded by the stopping officer.

## **DISCUSSION**

The OPS applied for, and received, a grant from the Ministry (Public Safety Division), for the purchase and deployment of additional mobile ALPR cameras. The Ministry has directed the OPS to use the approved funds, and to make the purchase within the 2022-23 fiscal year.

The Ministry confirmed its understanding that the OPS will not be able to immediately begin to install these cameras by the fiscal year deadline, as these additional units will likely not be on the road until Q3, at the earliest.

The use of the grant funds for 37 new in-car cameras will increase the number of ALPR-capable vehicles to 42. Detailed planning can begin once the cameras are purchased, and delivery dates are known.

The provision of the funds by the Ministry for the purchase of the ALPR cameras and the direction to complete the use of the funds by the end of the fiscal year (March 31, 2023) has accelerated the timeline to complete the purchase of the ALPRs. The purchase of the devices will be completed far earlier than it is possible for the OPS to properly prepare and conduct an integrated system implementation to support the cameras to be installed.

## **CONSULTATION**

ALPR capability has been deployed by the OPS since 2016 and is well understood and accepted by Ottawa communities. As a result, no consultation is deemed to be required for the specific deployment of ALPRs.

The proposed new system to be acquired from Axon will provide not only ALPR detection capabilities but also video and audio recording capabilities of police interactions with members of the public. It can be used for live streaming by a command team to view real-time situations. Prior to these capabilities being enabled, community consultations are required to ensure that any possible issue linked to video/audio capture and management is addressed and mitigated. The OPS will ensure that public consultations are fully completed prior to any implementation.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

For both the selection of the ALPR and the integration solution to support the cameras, the OPS is following the direction of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). The OPP conducted a competitive process for in-car cameras (ICC) with ALPR systems. Based on that evaluation, the OPP selected Axon Public Safety Canada Inc., and awarded a four-year contract, effective as of August 2022.

The contract includes provisions for other police services in the province of Ontario to establish their own contract, by way of a request, as set out in the terms of the agreement. The OPS intends to use this approach to purchase the ALPR units. The funds provided by the Ministry are specifically intended for the purchase of ALPR cameras.

The OPS has consulted with City Procurement and discussed the decision to go forward with the purchase of the Axon units, by leveraging the competitive purchase agreement executed by the OPP. City Procurement will perform its respective review of the competition details and work with the OPS to obtain any additional required information.

The OPS requests authority for the Chief of Police to purchase in-car cameras, at a cost of up to \$669,447. This will include in-car implementation services provided by the vendor and coordinated with the OPS' Fleet Services.

The per unit price of the in-car camera (all components and licenses) is \$17,338.49 per camera/ALPR system, including installation in the patrol vehicle.

The integration components and licenses required to provide support for the connection between the in-car camera systems and the OPS secure network is \$18,683.

## Expenses

This project will be funded by the Ministry grant, as per the table below.

Available funds from the SolGen Grant	\$669,447
Amount of this request for 37 in-car camera systems at a price of \$17,338.49 each, (Fleet 3 Advanced from AXON Public Safety Canada)	\$641,524
Amount of this request for Integration components, (Dynamic Bundle from AXON Public Safety Canada)	\$ 18,683
Miscellaneous parts and fees	\$ 6,094
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<b>Remainder:</b>	<b>\$ 3,145</b>

## CONCLUSION

The OPS is seeking approval from the Board to provide authority to the Chief of Police to use grant funding from the Ministry to purchase an additional 37 ALPR in-car cameras for the Service.

The OPS will use existing terms of agreement, established by the OPP in its competitive process, to acquire these devices from Axon Public Safety Canada. The Service will continue to work with City Procurement to provide additional oversight.

This will support the expansion of the deployment of ALPR capabilities across the City of Ottawa and will enhance public safety and strengthens roadside law enforcement.

This also aligns with the OPS' strategic direction and future development for digital evidence information management system (DEIMS).