



Department Source: Police

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 7, 2022

Re: Federal Forfeiture Funds Appropriation – Fusus system

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$315,000 from the Asset Forfeiture Fund to Police Budget to purchase Fusus Real-Time Crime Center system.

Discussion

Fusus is a software platform for law enforcement that allows police to access any public or business linked camera asset in real time and review video footage. The platform allows access to both public and private business cameras, body worn cameras, drones and other feeds throughout the city on a permission based level, and it is on a voluntary participation basis. The platform allows for residential camera registry allowing owners to share recordings voluntarily, however, does not allow for live feeds of residential cameras. Fusus provides a Real-Time Crime center allowing police to have immediate access to video feeds on one single platform while responding to emergencies and other police responses. It also allows for immediate video searches enhancing the situational awareness and investigative capabilities of law enforcement while emphasizing officer, citizen and community safety. The system includes incident based geo-specific public messaging, which would allow citizens to be notified during major events.

The Columbia Police Department held informational meetings for business owners, the downtown community improvement district and school officials to learn about the system and its capabilities. A community informational meeting will be held on Nov. 1, from 6 – 8 p.m., in the City's Human Resources Training Room at the Howard Municipal Building. A second informational meeting will be held in the North Precinct on Nov. 2, from 6 – 8 p.m. in the community room at the Molly Thomas Bowden Neighborhood Policing Center. On Nov. 9, a third meeting will be held at the Policing Center to review a proposed policy and procedure for using Fusus and to gather public input and feedback for suggested changes. A time has not yet been set for that session.

In addition to CPD outreach and education efforts, Fusus has agreed to participate in meetings and help educate the public through their outreach plan. Fusus has a team of individuals specifically assigned to outreach, and they help educate the public during the implementation phase.

The proposed cost is for a 3-year contract that will be paid upfront with this appropriation. By paying the contract in full up front, the savings was \$60,000. At the conclusion of the initial 3-year contract (end of FY25), the program will be re-evaluated to determine if it will be



renewed. If a renewal is requested, it would be included in police budget process for FY26 at approximately \$125,000 per year.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$315,000 increase to Patrol Operating budget, \$315,000 decrease to Federal Forfeitures revenue.

Long-Term Impact: No additional cost until year 4, as contract is paid in full for 3 years with this appropriation. If contract is renewed for year 4, it will be included in the regular budget process for FY26 at approximately \$125,000 per year.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Neighborhoods, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Shall Council agree, staff recommends passage of the ordinance authorizing the appropriation of Federal Forfeiture Funds for the purchase of Fusus Real-Time Crime Center system.