



Commerce City

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Council Communication

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Agenda Number:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR DRONE HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO PALADIN DRONES, INC.

Summary and Background Information:

The Commerce City Information Technology Department, in partnership with the Commerce City Police Department, are seeking to enter into a contract with Paladin Drones, Inc. for Drone hardware, software, implementation services, and support to establish the Drone as a First Responder (DFR) program in Commerce City. This technology will support the City Council Goal for Public Health and Safety.

Police departments throughout the country now use drones as a tool for crime prevention and to assist with investigations. Drones can be used in many different ways to assist Public Safety and Police agencies are applying drone usage to day-to-day operations at an increasing rate. DFR's are an efficient and effective way of enhancing a law enforcement agency's ability to deter crime and solve cases. A Police Department drone program can serve as a deterrent to crime and can improve the quality of life of residents. A law enforcement drone program is a cost-effective force multiplier which provides critical aerial overwatch to help protect residents who are in harm's way, as well as dramatically improving safety for officers responding to an in-progress incident or emergency. Paladin's unique solution assists to overcome the obstacles of establishing a DFR program with the use of autonomous drones. The Paladin M30T autonomous drone and Watchtower control software offer a very cost effective autonomous drone program designed with the Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) and Drone as First Responder (DFR) missions features. The Paladin M30T drone is equipped with a state of art video camera which has thermal capabilities for night vision. With technology like drones and LPR cameras, there are related privacy concerns on how the technology will be used and how the images will be stored, accessed, and used. The camera on the M30T drone does not activate and start recording until it arrives overhead at the incident address or location. It stops recording when returning to the PD drone launch site. All M30T drone flights would be for official use only, approved by Police Administration and tracked by incident and case number documenting the need and use of each drone flight. The video footage from each authorized drone flight would be maintained per State Statute(s) by Paladin and accessed only by authorized PD personnel. This cost is an all-inclusive annual subscription that would be for the term of 3 years and include 4 drones. This will cover everything needed to operate the DFR including; but not limited to the application

for an FAA waiver, all required training, implementation, software, cloud storage, and drone replacement.

Solicitation Activity: The acting City Manager approved a single source waiver. Staff compared multiple vendors and Paladin stood out as the best value for the city.

Staff Responsible (Department Head): Justin Bingham, IT Director

Staff Member Presenting: Tiffany Chacon (if questions arise)

Financial Impact: \$380,250 over the term of 3 years

Funding Source: Information Technology Drones Project budget which was included in the 2025 adopted budget.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends moving forward awarding the contract to Paladin Drones, Inc. subject to finalization of the contract and executed by the City Manager.

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2025-010, authorizing award of contract for Drone Hardware, Software, Implementation Services, and Support to Paladin Drones, Inc.