



# CITY OF LODI

## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Purchase of a Computer Voice Stress Analyzer and Training for Five Police Officers as Certified Examiners.

MEETING DATE: April 5, 1995

PREPARED BY: Larry D. Hansen, Chief of Police

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council approve the purchase of a Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA) and approve the training of five (5) Police Officers as certified examiners for this instrument.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Lodi Police Department currently purchases services from several different vendors for Polygraph Examinations for truth verification for a variety of circumstances. The cost of each polygraph is \$125 for pre-employment and \$250 for interviews in matters related to criminal incidents. Many times the person to be interviewed failed to arrive and no interview is conducted, but the fee is still charged. A polygraph examination usually takes approximately two hours to complete, where the CVSA takes only thirty (30) minutes.

The CVSA is used extensively by Florida Law Enforcement Agencies and it has been extremely effective. The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office has been using two CVSA instruments for approximately two years and feel it is more reliable and cost effective than the polygraph examination. They are purchasing three additional units and will train three more Certified Examiners. There are several other agencies including Stockton, Contra Costa County and several other Southern California agencies that have expressed an interest in purchasing this equipment.

Since July 1, 1994 the City of Lodi used polygraph services on 19 occasions, at a cost of \$2,261.25. It is anticipated we will exceed the cost of the instrument and training during the first two years of service. The Police Department has a long range goal of 100 Reserve Officers by the year 2005. Since the requirements for Reserve Officer parallel that of a regular officer, finding qualified applicants is difficult. It is our past experience we will accept less than five per 100 applicants. This instrument would give us the ability to screen out the unqualified applicants in the initial phases of the application process at minimal costs, not only saving tax dollars,

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

THOMAS A. PETERSON  
City Manager



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but valuable man hours. The savings of dollars and time would also be beneficial to other departments, such as Personnel, who may use truth verification devices as a resource in determining eligibility of minimum requirements for employment.

Occasionally, in criminal investigations, we suspect the alleged victim is not telling us the truth about the incident. With the aid of the CVSA we will be able to verify the truthfulness of the reporting person, before spending hundreds of hours of investigation time in matters that later turn out to be either false reports or unfounded incidents.

The cost of one CVSA instrument and five Certified Examiners is \$12,810. Training is normally conducted in Florida, however, on April 17 thru 22, 1995, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department is coordinating the training at their facility thru the National Institute of Truth Verification (NITV), thus eliminating the travel expense and subsistence for our employees.

Captain Charles Mauch will be available for discussion on this proposal.

Key Benefits:                   Pre-employment interviews  
                                  Interviewing Suspects of Crimes  
                                  Interviewing Victims of Alleged Crimes  
                                  Interviewing Witnesses  
                                  Time and Cost Effective

FUNDING: Auto Theft Enhancement Fund, Account 23.1-103.01.

  
Larry D. Hansen  
Chief of Police

## Comparative cost of the Computer Voice Stress Analyzer vs. the polygraph

	<u>Computer Voice Stress Analyzer</u>	<u>Computerized polygraph</u>
Initial cost of system alone	\$6,750.00	\$15,000.00
Tuition for 1 student	\$ 975.00	\$ 3,000.00
Length of training	6 days	8 weeks
Cost of room & board factored at \$70.00 per day	\$ 420.00	\$ 3,920.00
Salary for student while in training (U.S. average)	\$ 769.23	\$ 6,153.84
Number of exams that an examiner can conduct per day	7	2
Average percent of inconclusive results on exams (average)	0%	20%
Can unit analyze audio tapes for truth verification?	Yes	No
Do drugs, medical condition, or age affect testing	No	Yes
Total cost to purchase 1 unit and train 1 agent	<b><u>\$8,914.23</u></b>	<b><u>\$28,073.84</u></b>