



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Donation of Cellular Telephones for the Police Department

MEETING DATE: November 2, 1994

PREPARED BY: Police Chief

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council authorize the Police Department to accept an offer from Cellular One to completely equip all marked patrol units with digital cellular telephones at no cost to the City. In addition, that the City Council authorize the Police Department to enter into a two-year agreement with Cellular One to purchase air time solely from Cellular One in recognition of their donating this equipment to the City of Lodi.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Lodi Police Department currently has 19 patrol units, three motorcycles, and a new surveillance van that we would like to equip with cellular phones. In addition, Cellular One has agreed to replace all of our existing telephones with digital cellular phones.

We have computed a monthly phone cost of approximately \$36.00 per phone. It is anticipated that the funding for the remaining 1994-95 fiscal year will be approximately \$6,600. The source for this funding is the Asset Seizure account.

If the City of Lodi were to purchase these cellular phones, the cost would be approximately \$22,000.

This is a unique opportunity to provide our personnel with state-of-the-art technology that will provide the following benefits:

- 1) Digital phones cannot be monitored. The transmissions are scrambled and would give us complete privacy for sensitive issues.
- 2) Police Officers are constantly required to phone the Dispatch Center and many of the phone booths in our City no longer allow that capability because you cannot receive calls.
- 3) The use of cellular phone technology will greatly expedite our officers ability to follow-up cases.

APPROVED

THOMAS A. PETERSON
City Manager



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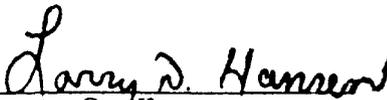
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4) The use of cellular phone technology will enable our officers to spend more time on the beats rather than coming into the police department to make follow-up phone calls.

The Katie Romanek kidnapping case was the most extreme example of the police department need for private communications. As the Council is aware, the news media was able to monitor most of the radio traffic and this presented some problems with the investigation.

To have scrambling capabilities on our entire radio system would cost in excess of a quarter of a million dollars. This cellular phone technology addresses that issue with the most economically feasible solution.

FUNDING: Asset Seizure \$6,600 (refer to above narrative).


Larry D. Hansen
Chief of Police

cc: City Attorney