

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM  
PURCHASING & GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**ITEM NO. 5**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Janie B. Cantu, Director of Purchasing & General Services

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES: Erik J. Walsh, Assistant to the City Manager; Albert Ortiz, Chief of Police;  
File

SUBJECT: Long Range Aircraft to Ground Video Downlink Tracking System

DATE: August 19, 2004

**SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION:**

This ordinance authorizes the Purchasing & General Services Department to accept the low responsive bid submitted by Ross Associates to provide the City of San Antonio Police Department with a long range aircraft to ground video downlink tracking system. Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The attached tabulation of one bid to provide the City of San Antonio Police Department with a long range aircraft to ground video downlink tracking system is hereby submitted for council consideration and action. The low responsive bid was submitted by Ross Associates for a total of \$91,827.

Beginning in 1998, the San Antonio Police Department began to install a microwave downlink system on all four of its helicopters. The initial budget provided funds for infrastructure equipment needed to build the first phase of the system such as transmitters, receivers, wiring, installation costs and video servers to import the video image into the City local area network. At this time there is omnidirectional antennas on top of the radio system tower located at the Police Department Headquarters Building. These antennas provide minimal quality reception at very short distances (7 miles or less), which is unacceptable for law enforcement and emergency operation standards.

This long-range aircraft to ground video downlink tracking system is an enhancement to the Police Departments current video downlink system. With the current system it is impossible to cover the entire City with a direct video feed from the helicopters to the downtown tower because of the large area our City encompasses. New technology in the field on diversity receivers and antennas will enable our helicopters to achieve a video feed at a minimum distance of thirty miles, easily covering the entire County and beyond. This purchase is to upgrade and install a simple, reliable and long range aircraft to ground video tracking system that can provide excellent video quality to the Police and Fire Department as well as mobile command trailer. This system will increase the distance the signal can be received from 7 miles to 30-35 miles depending on ground terrain and line of sight obstructions. With the extended range of the video signal, commanders can make quicker decisions based on what they can see happening miles away in real time.

Case in point was the recent train derailment that occurred on the city/county border. While the Police Helicopter responded to the scene, the current system was too far away to get video directly from the helicopter to the downtown tower. Once the tower receives the signal the video is easily distributed to the EOC, Fire and Police Dispatch and ITSD where it can be sent out over the Local Area Network. This project is being funded through a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant approved by City Council Ordinance # 98331, dated October 16, 2003.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

This contract is for the purchase of long-range aircraft to ground video downlink tracking system to be utilized by San Antonio Police Department Helicopter Unit. This system will provide live video feeds from helicopter thermal imaging camera to a designated tower site and then to either the City Emergency Operations Center or the San Antonio Police department Command Section.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The total cost of this contract is \$91,827.00. Funding will be from the Grants in Aid Trust Fund – Local Law Enforcement Block Grant. All expenditures will be in accordance with the FY2003-2004 Budget approved by City Council.

**COORDINATION**

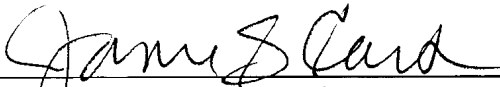
This item has been coordinated with the City of San Antonio Police Department.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

This contract was developed utilizing the formal competitive bid process; therefore, an Ethics Disclosure Form is not required.

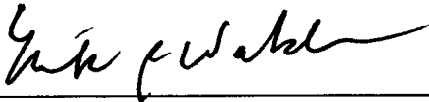
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The City of San Antonio Purchasing Department advertises bids in the Daily Commercial Recorder, La Prensa, The San Antonio Observer, and the San Antonio Express-News. This office also advertises bids on Public Access Channel 21, the Purchasing Website and utilizes the services of Demandstar.com to notify registered vendors of City bids.



Janie B. Cantu, C.P.M., Director  
Purchasing & General Services

Approved:



Erik J. Walsh, Assistant to the City Manager  
City Manager's Office

# City of San Antonio Bid Tabulation

Opened: July 30, 2004		Ross Associates
For: Long Range Aircraft To Ground Video Downlink Tracking System		2495 Vista Dr.
04-094	DS	Upland, CA 91784
ITEM	DESCRIPTION	
1	Long Range Aircraft to Ground Video Downlink Tracking System	
	TOTAL PRICE	\$91,827.00
	Delivery	60 Days
	Terms	1% - 15
	Total Awarded	\$91,827.00