



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr. Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Consideration – Application for Mobile Forensics Grant

DATE: November 21, 2013

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City Police Department is currently seeking opportunities to enhance its technology program and increase the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the department. Susteen (a company specializing in mobile forensic technology) is offering up to \$3,921 in grant funding through its Community Outreach Program specifically designated for small to medium size law enforcement agencies. Its product “Secure View 3” mobile forensic software and add-on modules are being offered through the grant funding. If acquired, the Elizabeth City Police Department would use this software to keep up with the increasing amount of cases involving cell phone data and eliminate having to ship recovered/seized cell phones to outside sources for its mobile forensic needs. If funding is approved through the 2013 Susteen Community Outreach Mobile Forensics Grant, the department could purchase Secure View 3 forensic software and begin to implement this enhancement in its technological program.

ANALYSIS:

The Elizabeth City Police Department, through its research, determined that Susteen is a highly reputable company and one of the best sources for obtaining valuable data and evidence from cellular phones, including Smart Phones and pre-paid phones that can be purchased from any retail establishment. Susteen’s product line has proven successful in solving investigations and getting convictions in various crimes that have been committed in which the perpetrator has use of a cell phone, which is almost always the case. Secure View 3 software is described as the “go to” tool for the cell phone forensic investigator. It supports over 4,000 features phones and allows law enforcement agencies to gain case file creation, analyzing, and bookmarking in one complete software package.

There is a 30% match for this particular grant, which means the funding would be in the total of \$2,995.00 for the software and \$2,375.00 for the add-on modules if needed. The total cost to the City would be \$899.00 for the software and another \$550.00 if the add-on modules were purchased. This grant is non-competitive and is on a first come, first serve basis. If the Elizabeth City Police Department does make application for it in the month of November 2013, it

is almost guaranteed that grant funding would be approved. A delayed application would decrease the department's chances in receiving funding.

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their meeting of November 20, 2013 and recommends approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize the Elizabeth City Police Department to seek grant funding from the 2013 Susteen Community Outreach Mobile Forensics grant program in order to acquire mobile forensics software and add-on modules to be used by the department.