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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 17, 2012

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Department of Probation - Electronic Monitoring Equipment

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization to enter into a contract with a vendor and to appropriate available asset forfeiture funds for the purchase of new electronic tracking devices to monitor probationers under County Department of Probation supervision.

The County is utilizing an old server-based solution which requires probationers under supervision to have land-line telephones in their homes. Because many probationers no longer have land lines at their residences, the older technology cannot work. The new solution uses wireless cellular technology to track probationers. The County has available asset forfeiture funds which will be utilized to pay for a portion of the new system.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, please contact Commissioner of Probation Brian McLaughlin. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/tcc
Enclosure

cc: Commissioner Brian McLaughlin

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Probation
Re: Department of Probation - Electronic Monitoring Equipment
Date: September 17, 2012

SUMMARY

The attached resolution requests authorization to appropriate available asset forfeiture funds for the Department of Probation for the purchase of 25 new electronic tracking devices to monitor probationers under County supervision.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The County will be utilizing a combination of unanticipated revenue, available balances in expense accounts and asset forfeiture funds to pay for the new system. The new monitoring units and web-based monitoring will cost $56,250 for the units and the web based monitoring fee which will be offset by server maintenance savings.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The County is utilizing an old server-based solution which requires probationers under supervision to have land-line telephones in their homes. Because many Americans no longer have land lines at their residences, the older technology cannot work. The new solution uses wireless cellular technology to track probationers.

The new solution will utilize contractor Behavioral Interventions, Inc. ("BI, Inc.") to monitor the systems remotely via the web so that when a violation has occurred, an Erie County Probation Officer can take immediate action if necessary. This will free-up Probation Officers to conduct home visits instead of monitoring the system.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department of Probation utilizes electronic monitoring technology to assist with the supervision of sex offenders, domestic violence offenders, high-risk juveniles and others sentenced to home confinement. The current electronic monitoring operating system was purchased in 2002. It is a self-contained computer/software system (or server) that is managed and operated by Probation Officers as an extra duty. The monitoring server malfunctions several times a year, is near the end of its lifespan, and will need to be replaced.

To address the deficiencies in the current server-based monitoring system, the Department of Probation is proposing the purchase of 25 HomeGuard Model #206 units

and concurrently, will eliminate use of the current GS-200 LAN server to move forward to web-based monitoring.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The current server will continue to fail and public safety could be at risk from a lack of supervision.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Probation will work with the Division of Budget and Management to transfer the funds into the proper account and purchase and deploy the new electronic monitoring solution.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION

RE: Department of Probation – Electronic Monitoring Equipment

WHEREAS, the County is utilizing an old server-based solution which requires probationers under supervision to have land-line telephones in their homes; and

WHEREAS, because many probationers no longer have land lines at their residences, the older technology cannot work properly and effectively; and

WHEREAS, new technology uses wireless cellular technology to track probationers; and

WHEREAS, a new wireless-based electronic monitoring system can also utilize a contractor to monitor the new units remotely, and County probation officers can respond when necessary, thus freeing probation officers to conduct home visits and other critical monitoring instead of monitoring a server; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Probation has identified new wireless-based electronic monitoring technology from the same company that provides the County's current systems that can reduce expense, avoid downtimes in the current old server solution; and

WHEREAS, the County has $94,268.71 available asset forfeiture funds (account #221100) for which a portion can be utilized to pay for the deployment of this new system; and

WHEREAS, there will be no impact on county dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature approves the appropriation of $22,000 in available asset forfeiture funds to the Erie County Department of Probation, Lab and Tech Equipment account#561410 for the procurement of 25 HomeGuard Model #206 units; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transactions are hereby authorized in the 2012 Budget of the Probation Department:

REVENUE		Increase
409020	Misc State Aid	$15,135
421550	Forfeiture Crime Proceeds	$22,000
	Total Revenue	$37,135

APPROPRIATION		Increase/(Decrease)
510100	Out of Area Travel	($16,000)
510200	Training and Education	($3,115)
561410	Lab and Technical Equipment	$56,250
	Total Appropriations	$37,135

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Behavioral Interventions, Inc., the current sole source vendor, for the purchase of the new electronic monitoring devices and the web-based monitoring fee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these expenditures meet the criteria established by the US Department of Justice for use of equitable shared funds; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Probation, and the Division of Budget and Management.