CHIEF OF POLICE ERIC D. ENGLISH

101 NORTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22802

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911

NONEMERGENCY NUMBER: (540) 434-4436

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WWW.HARRISONBURGVA.GOV/POLICE

TO: Eric Campbell, City Manager

FROM: Eric English, Chief of Police

DATE: July 29, 2020

RE: Blacklight and MacQuisition Digital Forensic software purchase

Summary:

Consider a supplemental appropriation for the Harrisonburg Police Department in the amount of $4,689.55 from state asset forfeiture funds (to be used for Law Enforcement purposes only). Funds will be used for the purchase of needed Digital Forensic software along with the required training of said applications.

Background:

The Harrisonburg Police Department's Digital Examination and Forensics Laboratory no longer owns a licensed product that is capable of Mac acquisitions. HPD's previous product license with Sumuri for Mac acquisitions was discontinued due to the software falling behind that of their competitors. Recently Cellebrite purchased Blackbag Technologies, the developers of Blacklight and MacQuisition. HPD currently uses Cellebrite products for multiple types of data extraction and analysis. Cellebrite's purchase of Blackbag Technologies has made better Mac software more readily available from a recognized and reliable company.

Key Issues:

- Currently we do not have licensed software for these data pulls and examinations.

- Blackbag technologies (now under the umbrella of Cellbrite) is recognized globally as an innovator for forensic acquisition and analysis software for iOS and Mac OS devices.

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- The software forms the foundation for investigators/ analysts to triage field evidence, provide live data acquisition, targeted data collection, quickly analyze computer volumes and mobile devices, to support comprehensive investigative reports.

- MacQuisition is used to rapidly acquire data from all Apple devices and get disk- level forensic analysis, produce reports on findings, and maintain the integrity of the evidence in a format the courts have come to trust.

- Blacklight is used to analyze this data, including Windows systems along with forensics image formats from other tools, giving HPD one place to more efficiently analyze case data from many sources.

Environmental Impact:

 None

Fiscal Impact:

There will be an annual fee associated with this software of $1,500.00.

Prior Actions:

None

Alternatives:

(a). Continue to use unlicensed software with the associated risks.

Community Engagement:

N/A

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Recommendation:

I recommend purchase of the Cellebrite's Blacklight and MacQuisition BOOST bundle which includes the software, software training, and a user certification for court purposes.

Attachments:

See Attached

Review:

The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.