



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Police Department

Date August 18, 2005
To Public Safety and Regulatory Services Committee
Referral to

Subject

In order to accelerate growth and decrease future operational expenses, the Automated Pawn System (APS) needs to identify a point-of-sale software company capable of providing and supporting a software program that meets all APS point-of-sale software requirements.

Recommendation

Authorize issuance of a Request for Proposal to identify a point-of-sale software company capable of providing and supporting a software program that meets all APS point-of-sale software requirements.

Previous Directives

(None related to this request)

Prepared or Submitted by: Phil Hafvenstein, 673-3829
Approved by: Dep. Chief Sharon Lubinski, 673-3554
Presenters in Committee: Mary Pedersen, APS System Administrator

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Action requires use of contingency or reserves

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

Neighborhood Notification

City Goals

Comprehensive Plan

Zoning Code

Other

Background/Supporting Information Attached

In 1997, the City of Minneapolis Police Department developed and implemented the Automated Pawn System (APS), which facilitates the collection of transaction information from pawn shops and the sharing of that information among law enforcement agencies, electronically. Today, APS collects information from nearly 70 pawn shops in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and shares it 24x7 with over 140 agencies.

The City of Minneapolis Police Department is soliciting proposals from qualified vendors for pawnbroker point-of-Sale (POS) software that meets the Automated Pawn System (APS) Point-of-sale Application Requirements Specifications. The software is needed to support the growth and expansion of the Automated Pawn System, and to better insure required data is reported completely and accurately using the APS Interchange File Specification, as required by state and local laws.

Currently, pawn shops reporting to APS may use any point-of-sale software that enables them to submit required data in accordance with the Automated Pawn System Interchange File Specification format. While several POS programs are able to provide this functionality, none of them fully meet the Automated Pawn System Application Requirements Specifications. This results in excess acquisition, implementation, training and support costs for pawnbrokers, as well as for software vendors and the Automated Pawn System support staff.

Through this request for proposal, the City of Minneapolis seeks to:

- Better accommodate the anticipated growth and expansion of the Automated Pawn System.
- Identify pawnbroker point-of-sale software that is compliant with the Automated Pawn System Application Requirements Specification.
- Create and establish a licensing agreement between the City of Minneapolis and compliant point-of-sale software vendor that will:
 - Reduce the initial cost of point-of-sale software for pawnbrokers that report to the Automated Pawn System.
 - Insure pawnbrokers establish and maintain service and support contracts with the vendor.
 - Decrease their total cost of ownership by reducing employee training time, the opportunity for employee data entry errors, and the need for error correction by managers.
 - Improve effectiveness and stabilize the cost of pawnbroker support by the software vendor and the Automated Pawn System staff.