



December 15, 2025

Police Department

**CITY OF FERNDALE  
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**FROM:** Dennis Emmi

**SUBJECT:** Agreement with Axon for Automated License Plate Reader Cameras

**SUGGESTED ACTION**

MOVED

SECONDED

To approve the agreement with Axon for Automated License Plate Reader Camera for \$110,167.60 over 5-years, to be paid from account #262-000-818.000, as submitted by the Chief of Police.

**Item Background**

In March of 2023, City Council approved a pilot program for automated license plate readers through Flock Safety. This pilot program is now complete and based on Council and community feedback staff is not recommending we renew the agreement with Flock Safety, citing privacy concerns and failures by the vendor to protect images stored on the city's ALPR network from unauthorized agencies.

The police department has updated the ALPR policy to require a reasonable cause threshold for an investigator to access the network. The police department will also increase the frequency of network (external) and organizational (internal) audits to quarterly.

Though the City had concerns with the vendor, the police department was very successful using ALPR technology to solve serious crimes in our community, including murders, attempted murder, robberies, and home invasions. Due to the success of this program, the Chief of Police recommends continued use of ALPR technology.

The police department has vetted four ALPR providers (Axon, Genetec, Rekor, Motorola). After the vetting process, the police department recommends contracting ALPR technology from Axon. Axon does not have a national look-up feature. Axon's ALPR data sharing software only operates on a "one-to-one" basis. Based on the data collected from the pilot program.

The police department recommends installing cameras at the following locations: northbound and southbound Woodward, eastbound and westbound Eight Mile Road, and eastbound and westbound Nine Mile Road. The agreement also includes installation, service and maintenance for nine cameras,

and equipment refreshes to ensure that our equipment keeps pace with the latest technology as it evolves.

If approved, installation would occur in April of 2026. The cost of the 5-year agreement is \$110,967.60. The first payment would be deferred to April of 2027 and consist of four payments of \$27,741.90 per year. The average cost per year is \$22,193.52. Axon has been a leader in law enforcement technology for many years. At the November 24, 2025 council meeting, council requested addendums original agreement. Axon has agreed to meet many of the requested addendums.

The police department is coming to the end of a 5-year agreement for body worn camera, in-car camera, interview room, taser, and evidence storage. The police department is extremely satisfied with the service and maintenance provided by Axon. Axon has also been selected by CLEMIS to provide the next generation of telephone/9-1-1, hardware and software to Oakland County PSAPs. Axon's cloud-based evidence storage, evidence.com, has provided law enforcement and prosecutors with an efficient and secure means of sharing digital evidence.

#### **Previous Action**

In March of 2023, City Council approved a pilot program for automated license plate readers through Flock Safety. The outcomes of that pilot program were discussed at a meeting on September 29, 2025. On November 24, 2025, council tabled the consideration for the approval of the Axon agreement. Council requested addendums to the agreement as well as additional community engagement by a consultant. A consultant led community conversation is planned for December 12, 2025. A summary of that conversation will be prepared by the consultant.

On December 12, 2025, US^2 held a community conversation on the "Mitigating Risk of Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPRs). The Report of Findings is attached this agenda item.

#### **Strategic Goal**

Safe, Protected, Engaged Community

#### **Budget Impact**

\$110,167.60 Over 5-Years, to be paid from account #262-000-818 (Drug Forfeiture). Year-1 is deferred. The police department had previously budgeted \$27,000.00 annually for ALPR services. April 2027 - \$27,741.90 April 2028 - \$27,741.90 April 2029 - \$27,741.90 April 2030 - \$27,741.90 The average cost per year is \$22,193.52.

#### **Budget Amendment Required**

false

#### **GL#**

262-000-818.000

#### **CIP#**

N/A

**Staff Recommendation**

The Chief of Police recommends the approval of the agreement with Axon for automated license plate readers for \$110,167.60 Over 5-Years, to be paid from account #262-000-818 (Drug Forfeiture).

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Ferndale Axon ALPR Contract Addendum \(Axon Conformed Redlines\) Quote and SOW.pdf](#)

[Article\\_93.pdf](#)

[Ferndale\\_ALPR\\_FinalReport\\_12122025.pdf](#)

[Ferndale Axon ALPR Contract Addendum 121225 Update with Quote and SOW.pdf](#)