

**THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY  
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** Transfer of Twenty Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) and Vehicle Computer Mounts to the City of Thomson (Ga.) Police Department for Continued Law Enforcement Purposes

**DATE:** September 2, 2021

**BUDGET INFORMATION:**

REVENUES: N/A

EXPENSES: N/A

ANNUAL:

CAPITAL:

OTHER:

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

**COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON:** October 5, 2021

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**PURPOSE:**

To request that the Mayor and Commission:

- a) Approve the transfer of twenty mobile data terminals and twenty vehicle computer mounts to the City of Thomson (Ga.) Police Department; and,
- b) Authorize appropriate staff to execute all documentation to allow for the permanent transfer of such equipment to the custody of the City of Thomson.

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**HISTORY:**

1. On April 1, 2008, the Athens-Clarke County Police Department (ACCPD) was approved to purchase 120 laptops for use in patrol vehicles. Since such time, additional Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) have been incorporated into departmental operations as funding has become available through budgetary allocations and grant programs.
2. On March 3, 2017, Oglethorpe County Sheriff David R. Gabriel transmitted a request to ACCGov Manager Blaine Williams requesting assistance in the form of a transfer of equipment no longer in service by the Athens-Clarke County Police Department.
3. On June 6, 2017, the transfer request for the Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Office was approved by the Mayor and Commission.

4. On March 22, 2019, City Administrator Sharyn E. Dickerson transmitted a request to ACCGov Manager Blaine Williams requesting assistance in the form of a transfer of equipment no longer in service by the Athens-Clarke County Police Department. The request entailed the transfer of ten CF-31 MDTs and docking stations to the Watkinsville Police Department for continued law enforcement purposes.
5. On April 2, 2019, the Mayor and Commission approved the transfer request for the Watkinsville Police Department.
6. On April 7, 2021, Major Todd C. Tetterton of the Watkinsville Police Department transmitted a request to ACCPD Chief Cleveland L. Spruill, Sr. requesting assistance in the form of a transfer of any MDTs no longer in service with the ACCPD. Such has been clarified to entail twelve MDTs and associated vehicle computer mounts.
7. On August 3, 2021, the Mayor and Commission approved the most recent transfer request for the Watkinsville Police Department.
8. On August 20, 2021, Chief Courtney Gale of the City of Thomson (Ga.) Police Department transmitted a request to ACCPD Chief Cleveland L. Spruill, Sr. requesting assistance in the form of a transfer of any MDTs no longer in service with the ACCPD, up to twenty units.

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**FACTS & ISSUES:**

1. Mobile computers provide critical communications capabilities for police officers in the field. Within the Athens-Clarke County Police Department such devices access the databases of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System and the Records Management System (RMS). Absent connections to CAD/RMS capacity, MDTs still afford the capacity to timely generate reports in the field.
2. The ACCPD continues to replace its older MDTs (e.g., Panasonic CF-31 and CF-32 Toughbook models) with updated equipment (Panasonic FZ-55 models) through the maintenance of a computer lifecycle program. Older MDTs no longer in service are stored until such items are transferred to the ACCGov's surplus function. In addition to the MDTs, the older vehicle computer docks/mounts are removed from ACCPD's vehicles and transferred to surplus, if the new MDTs are not compatible with the legacy docks.
3. The anticipated lifespan for a MDT is between five and seven years. Each of the MDTs proposed for transfer are nine years of age or older. In addition, prior to any transfer all hard drives are removed from the MDTs. The docks/mounts used for such legacy MDTs are not compatible with the newer MDT models.
4. The requested MDTs in storage are no longer able to meet ACCPD's operational needs; however, such units could be used by other departments to perform less data intensive operations. Similarly, the legacy docks and mounts could be installed within other patrol vehicles to support older MDTs.

5. Chief Gale's request seeks the transfer of up to twenty of the legacy Panasonic Toughbooks and associated vehicle computer mounts.

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**OPTIONS:**

1. Mayor and Commission:
  - a) Approve the transfer of twenty mobile data terminals and twenty vehicle computer mounts to the Thomson (Ga.) Police Department; and,
  - b) Authorize appropriate staff to execute all documentation prudent to allow for the permanent transfer of such equipment to the custody of the City of Thomson.
2. Mayor and Commission deny the request to transfer the proposed mobile data terminals and vehicle computer mounts to the Thomson Police Department.
3. Mayor and Commission-defined Option.

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**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Option #1: a & b

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**DEPARTMENT:**

Prepared by: Joshua Watkins



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Cleveland L. Spruill, Sr.

9/14/2021

Date:

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**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:** Option #1 a & b



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Manager

September 14, 2021

Date: