



AGENDA NO: 6.b

MEETING DATE: August 12, 2025

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

DATE: August 5, 2025

FROM: Daniel McCrain, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Equipment Donation from SYTIS

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Accept the donated equipment from SYTIS and authorize the City Manager to execute the Donation Agreement.

ALTERNATIVES

None as the donation offer complies with the City's Donation Policy as established by Resolution No. 61-19 which requires City Council approval to accept donations exceeding \$5,000.

FISCAL IMPACT

The value of donated equipment totals \$47,100.

BACKGROUND

SYTIS founder and CEO Darryl Mendivil contacted the Morro Bay Fire Department with an offer to donate thermal imaging cameras to improve public safety through its automatic fire detection technology. SYTIS is a technology company based out of San Luis Obispo that manufactures infrared and thermal imaging cameras with software for fire detection and automatic notification. The company proposes a donation of two fixed location cameras, and one vehicle mounted camera. The locations for the fixed cameras have tentatively been identified but will need to be fully evaluated by City staff before installation can be completed. One fixed location camera would be installed on City's Water Reclamation Facility property positioned to view the Black Hills open space for detection of fires in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. This area was selected due to the fire hazard severity and fuel accumulation in this open space. This area also has a history of small fires in illegal campsites. The second Camera is intended to be positioned on the Nutmeg Water Tank location with a view of the waterfront for identification of vessel fires in the harbor and may be manually utilized to locate victims in surf rescue incidents along the waterfront. The vehicle mounted camera would be installed on one of the Morro Bay Fire Department apparatus for use on emergency scenes for victim location and fire detection. This will be especially useful on motor vehicle accidents involving electric vehicles to monitor the temperature of EV batteries.

SYTIS thermal imaging cameras are utilized by utility companies, the transportation industry, security

Prepared By: DM

Dept Review: DM

City Manager Review: AL

City Attorney Review: RWS

and other industries for property and equipment monitoring and fire detection. SYTIS believe their equipment can be beneficial for a public safety application with automatic fire detection and notification to alert first responders of fires during the initial stages of fire development, potentially shortening the time it takes for first responders to be notified of an incident. The company states their cameras have the ability to detect a 1' by 1' fire from over 5 miles away using AI and thermal fire detection. The cameras are able to see through heavy smoke or fog that would obscure a standard optical camera.

SYTIS is a local San Luis Obispo based company and the CEO has a personal connection to the City of Morro Bay and would like to provide this equipment to the Morro Bay Fire Department to improve public safety. Successful application of this camera technology could provide real world feedback on their technology to improve this public safety platform. SYTIS will provide thermal imaging cameras and related software to the Morro Bay Fire Department and will coordinate installation with Public Works and the City's IT Department to ensure there are no conflicts or security concerns.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Donation Agreement