



AGENDA MEMO
10/5/2021 Agenda

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Randy Howell, Fire Chief
SUBJECT: Traffic signal preemption (Opticom) systems upgrade

BACKGROUND:

For over 25 years the fire department has been using traffic signal preemption (Opticom) to control intersections when responding to emergency calls. The use of this technology allows responding apparatus to create green light passage through intersections resulting in quicker response time and enhanced safety. The current system uses outdated IR (Infrared) technology that is problematic in dense tree areas and is becoming less reliable.

This investment will replace the current system and allow first responders to utilize Opticom GPS and embedded radio technology that will calculate speed, direction, longitude/latitude information. Benefits include preemption around corners or obstacles in line-of-sight, turn signal-dependent mode, and in-vehicle confirmation lights.

This project also includes the installation of GPS preemption vehicle devices in police patrol units allowing officers to utilize signal preemption when responding to urgent calls for assistance.

Total cost is \$309,000 and meets Texas State purchasing requirements through the HGAC competitively bid contract.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this project is an investment in the safety of our citizens and first responders.

Completion of this project accomplishes one of the primary elements listed in the University Park Fire Department 2020-2025 Strategic Plan stated as follows: Strategic Initiative 6 - Increase Operational Efficiency; Research new Opticom technology available to provide consistent early activation of traffic signal preemption.