



GOODHUE COUNTY MINNESOTA

TO EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE THE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING OF OUR RESIDENTS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA
COUNTY BOARD ROOM
GOVERNMENT CENTER
RED WING, MN

DECEMBER 18, 2018
10:00 A.M.

(OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE COUNTY BOARD MEETING)

1. Toughbook Review

Documents:

[Toughbooks.pdf](#)



Office of the

Goodhue County Sheriff

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TO: Goodhue County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Kris Johnson, Sheriff

RE: Purchase and usage of Panasonic Toughbooks at the Sheriff's Office

DATE: December 13, 2018

More than 10 years ago, Goodhue County committed to updating their radio communications network via the 800 MHz radio update along with the implantation of a mobile data platform. Goodhue County was among the last counties in the State of Minnesota to provide this technology to their law enforcement officers. At the heart of the mobile data system is the laptop computer. After extensive research and field testing it was agreed upon the most user friendly and reliable laptop available was the Panasonic Toughbook. This decision was not strictly a Goodhue County decision, but was made jointly with our law enforcement partner's countywide. The Panasonic Toughbooks were coupled with Gamber-Johnson mounting docks, which allow for the laptop to dock inside the squad allowing each officer the same level of computer access inside their squad car as had only previously been available in an office environment. The laptop allows for complete access to our information management software provider, Computer Information Systems (CIS) which interfaces with all aspects of data management...records, civil, jail management, CJIS, and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension among others. Since it came online in 2009, the laptop in the squad has become the most necessary piece of equipment to accomplish the job of a modern day law enforcement officer.

The computers in use today, the Panasonic Toughbook, come with a three-year warranty. We have elected to purchase an additional fourth year of warranty through Panasonic, which allows for complete warranty coverage for four years from the original date of purchase. Beyond four years, Panasonic does not sell additional warranty protection. It has been our experience that as these computers enter into their 5th year of service they become increasingly less reliable...touch screens begin to fail, storage space becomes limited due to increasingly large CIS program upgrades and keyboards become problematic. Through this experience, we certainly understand why Panasonic (or any other ruggedized laptop manufacturer) will not offer warranty protection beyond the fourth year of field use. Inevitably, problems will arise. For those not familiar with a ruggedized laptop, they are commonly used by military and law enforcement throughout the country. They are specifically designed for field use and are capable of withstanding the pounding they receive daily. They are designed to operate in harsh environments with wildly swinging temperature extremes, constant

vibration and jarring and are specifically designed to be taken in and out of the squad car multiple times a day.

As most of you are aware, Sheriff's office employees are routinely operating out of three separate office facilities...Red Wing, Wanamingo, and Pine Island. Rather than tasking the Goodhue County's IT staff to maintain and service desktop PC's at these office sites, our deputies are using their assigned laptops which are docked remotely at each office site. This removes the necessity for IT staff to travel to these remote locations to troubleshoot problems that may exist with maintaining a desktop PC's at these facilities.

It was suggested at the December 6 Board meeting that we could perhaps eliminate or scale back on the number or type of laptops in use by Sheriff's Office staff. I see no other option other than to move forward with the proposed replacement plans for a multitude of reasons, some of them outlined above. It should be noted that since the mobile data program was instituted, we have modified the type of equipment we issue based on how they have been used. We no longer issue the same type of device for everyone as we initially did when the program was rolled out. We observed how devices were used and have subsequently ordered a number of less expensive semi-rugged devices to investigators and administrative staff who used their laptops in less harsh conditions. This change was instituted after the first five years of use based on information and input from end users and has resulted in a savings in upfront cost for devices.

Attached is a spreadsheet showing the most recent two-year replacement plan for laptops that shows the type and number of devices currently in use. It should be noted in the plan shown on the spreadsheet we have collaborated with the City of Red Wing to replace devices at the same time in an effort to leverage better buying power by purchasing these devices in greater numbers.

2018 - 2020 TOUGHBOOK REPLACEMENTS				
DESCRIPTION	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
10 TOUGHBOOKS (CF-54) (ADMIN/INVESTIG)	\$ 2,718.00			\$ 27,180.00
21 TOUGHBOOKS (CF-31) (DEPUTIES)		\$ 4,659.00		\$ 97,839.00
11 TOUGHBOOKS (CF-31) (DEPUTIES)			\$ 4,659.00	\$ 51,249.00
PRICE OF A DOCKING STATION	\$ 820.00			
<u># OF TOUGHBOOKS PER CITY</u>				
RED WING	13			
CANNON FALLS	4			
ZUMBROTA	3			
GOODHUE	1			
KENYON	1			