



Legislation Text

File #: 0654-2024, **Version:** 1

BACKGROUND: This ordinance authorizes the Public Safety Director to enter into contract with Leads Online LLC for continued access to the company's Automated Scrap Materials and Used Goods Transaction Information Management System. Residential and commercial burglaries, theft of motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts and various types of metal materials that have value as scrap metal are a significant problem for law enforcement agencies, contractors and builders, utility providers, business owners, home owners, and the residents of Columbus. This system allows for an online electronic reporting system for all pawnshop, secondhand, and scrap metal dealers in Columbus and nationwide access to pawn/secondhand transaction information, reports, and searches. The company maintains records from all participants operating as licensed scrap metal facilities located in the continental United States and makes the information available to the Columbus Division of Police for investigative searches of stolen goods, especially scrap metal.

Ordinance 0441-2007, passed in July 2007, amended Columbus City Codes to provide licensing and regulation of scrap metal dealers and ensures that motor vehicles and metal sold as scrap are legitimately owned by the seller. The City entered into contract with LeadsOnline, LLC on November 17, 2008, pursuant to Ordinance No. 1723-2008 for this service.

Bid Information: The City of Columbus first contracted with this vendor through the competitive RFP process. The contract was approved through ordinance 1723-2008 for access to this database and has continuously been in use since. This technology was a key effort in the City seminal effort to curb the scrap metal thefts within the City. This vital database is a valuable tool for investigators and is now used throughout Central Ohio, the State of Ohio, and around the nation. The Division of Police requests a bid waiver to continue services with this vendor.

Contract Compliance - CC007970, expiration date December 14, 2025.

This company is not debarred according to the Excluded Party Listing System of the Federal Government or prohibited from being awarded a contract according to the Auditor of State Unresolved Findings for Recovery Certified Search.

Emergency Designation: Emergency legislation is requested in order to allow the Division of Police uninterrupted access to the database for investigative purposes.

FISCAL IMPACT: This ordinance authorizes an expenditure of \$102,996.00 from the General Fund for an Automated Scrap Materials and Used Goods Transaction Information Management System. \$90,000.00 was budgeted in the 2024 General Fund for this purpose. The remaining amount will need to come from other 03 expenses of the Division of Police's 2024 General Fund budget. The total amount spent on this system in 2023 was \$86,135.00. The total amount spent on this system in 2022 was \$68,908.00.

To authorize and direct the Public Safety Director to enter into contract with Leads Online LLC for access to the company's Automated Scrap Materials and Used Goods Transaction Information Management System; to waive competitive bidding requirements of City Code; to authorize the expenditure of \$102,996.00 from the General Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$102,996.00)

WHEREAS, residential and commercial burglaries, the theft of motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts and various types of metal materials that have value as scrap metal are a significant problem for law enforcement agencies, contractors and builders, utility providers, business owners, home owners, and

WHEREAS, ordinance 0441-2007 passed in July 2007 provides for licensing and regulation of scrap metal dealers to

help ensure that motor vehicles and metals sold as scrap metal are legitimately owned by the seller and not stolen property; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance seeks to assist in the recovery of stolen property by contracting with Leads Online, LLC for access to their online database to help the Division of Police in their investigations. Therefore, it is in the City's best interest to waive the competitive bidding provisions of Chapter 329 of the City Code; and

WHEREAS, funds of \$90,000.00 are budgeted and available for this contract in the 2024 General Fund budget; and

WHEREAS, the remaining balance of funds will come from other object class 03 (Contractual Services) funding; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Division of Police, Department of Public Safety, in that it is immediately necessary to authorize the Public Safety Director to enter into contract with Leads Online, LLC for access to a database that will accelerate the apprehension of criminals for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, property, safety and welfare; **NOW, THEREFORE**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That the Public Safety Director be and is hereby authorized and directed to enter into contract with Leads Online, LLC for access to their Automated Scrap Materials and Used Goods Transaction Information Management System.

SECTION 2. That the expenditure of \$102,996.00, or so much thereof as may be needed, is hereby authorized in the General Fund 1000 in object class 03 Contractual Services per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 3. That this Council finds it is in the City's best interests to waive the competitive bidding provisions of City Code Chapter 329 to enter into this contract..

SECTION 4. That the funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this ordinance are hereby deemed appropriated, and the City Auditor shall establish such account codes as necessary.

SECTION 5. That the City Auditor is authorized to make any accounting changes to revise the funding source for all contracts or contract modifications associated with this ordinance and to make any accounting changes necessary to ensure that this contract is properly accounted for and recorded accurately on the City's financial records.

SECTION 6. That for the reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same