

**Council Work Session
April 24, 2023**

Members present were Mayor Trish Callahan, Council President Stacy Equitz, Council Vice President Delena Oden, Councilor Keith Gilliam, Councilor Alvin Thompson, Councilor Peggy Davis-Gilliam and Councilor Paul Price.

Staff present was Treasurer Katie Misfeldt and City Recorder Lori Paxton.

Audience was Dennis and Francesca Ford from AO Crisis Management Security Services.

Councilor Price made a motion to open the meeting at 7:02 pm. Vice President Oden seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Mayor Callahan said the reason we are here tonight is to review the three bids received for security patrol services and to listen to a presentation by one of the companies. She introduced Dennis Ford, owner of AO Crisis Management Security Services.

Mr. Ford gave a brief history of his background in law enforcement, military and security services. He wants to expand his company and do private security and supplement it with law enforcement. He recruits prior law enforcement officers and EMTs to his business and right now he has 8 people employed. He said he is very particular about who he hires, they have to be the right fit for his company. His officers are all armed and certified to carry firearms.

Mr. Ford said they can handle city ordinances, traffic accidents, arrest and detain if they witness a crime, secure crime scenes, act as guards for events and traffic control. They can not stop traffic but can take pictures of violations and send to sheriff's office. He said they work closely with the sheriff's office for things that they can't handle, like transporting someone. Hes was asked if he could stop a vehicle for speeding inside city limits and Mr. Ford said no, but he would check with the DA's office for legality. He also said his officers wear body cameras and they have cameras in their cars that is used for evidence. They have their own dispatch reporting system and is able to give daily reports. Citizens can also call their dispatch service to get a hold of them.

Mr. Ford presented two options for the council to consider:

Option 1: one full time officer and one ½ time officer. This cost would be \$9,500 per month.

Option 2: one full time officer only and the cost would be \$7,072.60 per month.

See attached cost breakdown.

Mayor Callahan said this cost is well within our police budget, actually it is under what we have budgeted for the department. Treasurer Misfeldt said we have always set money aside for the department every year. She stated Phil Long, the school superintendent, said the school wants to help pay for this service as they did in the past when we had a certified police officer.

Francesca Ford asked if we have any grant writers and offered to help us write and research grants. She also we would need to create a working list of the worst things happening in town right now and prioritize what you want worked on first.

The council thanked Dennis and Francesca for presenting their bid for review.

Mayor Callahan said our insurance company will exclude any security company and will not be covered under our insurance, but Mr. Ford's business has their own liability insurance. President Equitz said we need to check and see if he would be willing to name the town as additionally insured. Treasurer Misfeldt said Mr. Ford is willing to use our cop shop, plus he would store his cars here.

Action Security Inc: Mayor Callahan said their bid is \$12,525 per month and they offer the least amount of work.

Signal of Southern Oregon: Mayor Callahan said their bid is for \$11,620.44 for only one officer.

Mayor Callahan said Mr. Ford is considering going to the police academy and becoming re-certified as a police officer. He will also help search for grants for the department and is willing to bring in reserve officers at no cost to us.

President Equitz said from the way things are going, trying to get a police officer, we have no better option than this. She asked if we could get a background check on Mr. Ford and City Recorder Paxton said she would start that process.

Council discussed the best option from Mr. Ford and liked option number one. Discussed to put in the contract would be having a 30 day out if we or Mr. Ford wanted or needed to break the contract. Council all consented to AO Crisis Management Security Services as the best bid.

President Equitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Councilor Gilliam seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Minutes submitted by City Recorder Lori Paxton.