

Leveraging Technology for Community Safety



Where We Have Been



Key Milestones

- **February 5, 2025** – Initial City Council Work Session (Overview of proposed technology enhancements)
- **March 25 – April 23, 2025** – Public Comment Period (Online and in-person engagement)
- **April 28, 2025** – Public Hearing at City Council Meeting



Purpose

- To gather community input, understand concerns, and incorporate feedback
- Council requested clearer details on:
 - How each technology functions
 - Policies guiding use and oversight
 - Data retention, release, and accountability

Existing Infrastructure



Map of Downtown Camera Coverage



- Strategic use of video cameras in place since 2005
- 541 active Milestone cameras deployed across the city
- Regularly used in investigations and to resolve crimes – footage often shared with the public and media
- Additional technology tools currently in use:
 - Axon Squad Cameras
 - Axon Body-Worn Cameras
 - Live and post-incident video monitoring

Proposed Upgrade: Milestone “AI”

- Proposed upgrade enables search functionality with existing video review – not live monitoring or autonomous detection.
- Aids in locating relevant footage using filters like clothing color, vehicle type, etc.
- Dramatically reduces staff time spent on manual video review, accelerating investigations.
- All results are never acted upon independently – all findings are reviewed and verified by trained staff.
- Data retention: 30-38 days, based on storage and system capacity.
- Access is restricted to authorized personnel and fully stored on city owned servers. Unauthorized access or misuse is strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.



Proposed Purchase: Milestone ALPR

- Proposal to purchase 20 Milestone cameras equipped with automated license plate reader (ALPR).
- Supports ALPR scanning in key areas such as downtown and parking ramps.
- Does not query national databases.
- ALPR captures still images of license plates and vehicles – not drivers or full video footage.
- Data retention: 60 days, in accordance with MN Statute 13.824.
- Access is restricted to authorized personnel and fully stored on city owned servers. Unauthorized access or misuse is strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.



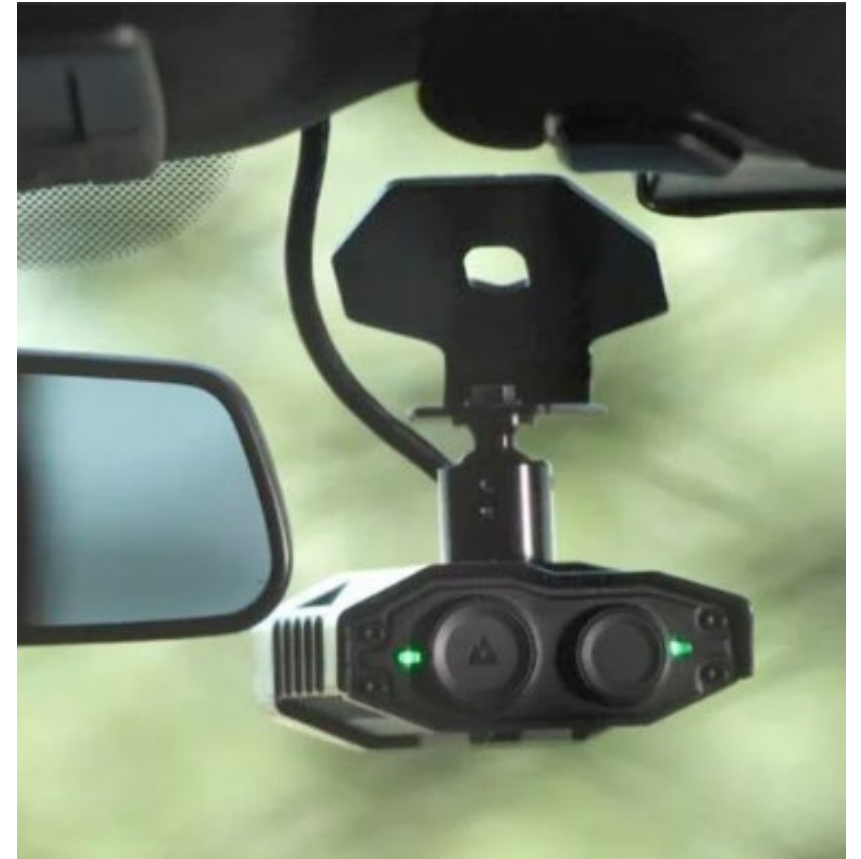
Proposed Activation: Axon ALPR

- Axon squad cameras are already deployed – ALPR capability is built-in but currently deactivated.
- No new equipment or cost required.
- Automatically scans license plates, reducing manual queries.
- Delivers real-time alerts for stolen vehicles, felony warrants, and missing persons (AMBER Alerts).
- Data retention: 60 days, in compliance with MN Statute 13.824.



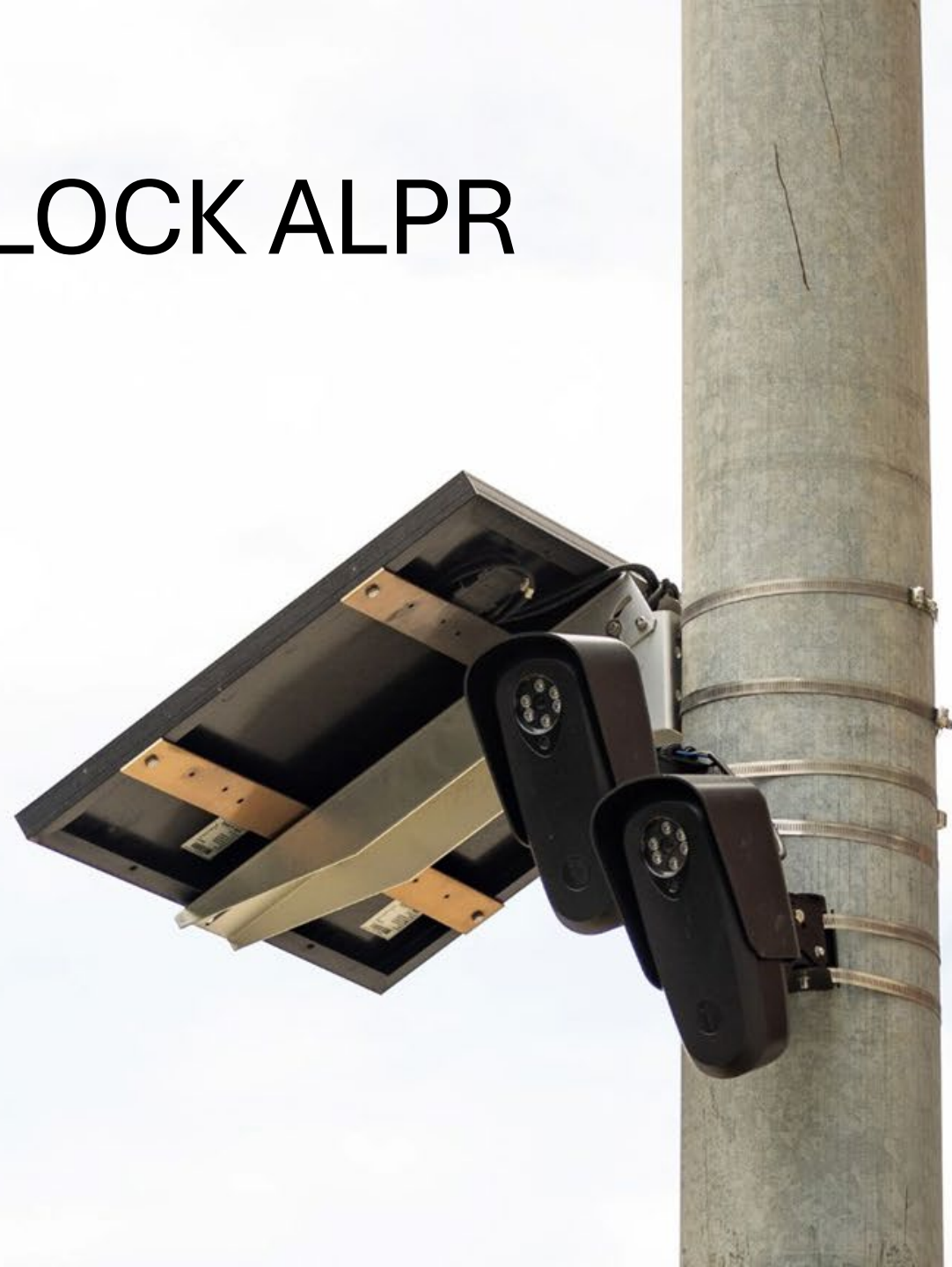
Data Integrity: Axon ALPR

- Customer Control:
 - Per Axon: “Axon acts solely as a data processor and does not own or claim rights to Customer Content. Customers retain full ownership and control over their content.”
- ALPR Data is protected under Minnesota Statute 13.824 and is governed by department and city policy.
 - Every search requires an authorized login and valid law enforcement investigative purpose.
 - All user access is tracked through detailed audit logs.
 - Audit logs include username, date/time of access, search criteria, and case reference.
 - Access is restricted to authorized personnel, logged through detailed audit trails, and fully controlled by Mankato DPS. Unauthorized access or misuse is strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.



Propose Purchase: FLOCK ALPR

- Fixed-location cameras positioned at key city entry/exit points.
- Supports investigations involving vehicles entering or leaving Mankato.
- Already in use by 50+ MN agencies and more than 3,000+ nationwide.
- Now permitted by the State of Minnesota for placement on state highways.
- Does not include real-time monitoring or facial recognition – captures vehicle characteristics and license plate only.
- Used exclusively for legitimate law enforcement purposes (e.g., AMBER Alerts, stolen vehicles, felony investigations, etc.).
- Continuous vehicle tracking is not permitted – a warrant is required for any tracking request.



Proposed Purchase: FLOCK ALPR

- Tiered implementation: Proposing 12 cameras to begin, out of 36 recommended for full city coverage.
- Don't own infrastructure – no hardware cost, no maintenance.
- No individual personal data is collected by or accessible in the Flock LPR system.
- Mankato retains full ownership and control of the data.
- Every search requires a documented reason and is tied to individual user account; audit logs are retained indefinitely.
- Access is restricted to authorized personnel, logged through detailed audit trails, and fully controlled by Mankato DPS. Unauthorized access or misuse is strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.



Proposed Purchase: Portable Trailer Cameras

- Temporarily deployed in response to public events, traffic concerns, or identified crime trends.
- Allows for testing and evaluation of camera placement to inform future permanent camera locations.
- High-visibility and short-term use — not permanent and not tied to specific neighborhoods.
- Ideal for enhancing safety at large gatherings, public spaces, or areas with increased activity.
- Not used for covert monitoring — designed to be visible, transparent, and act as a crime deterrent.
- Desire a system with live video monitoring, recorded video viewing, and ALPR functionality.
- Data retention: 30 days, in compliance with MN statute 13.824.



Public Comment Recap

Community Support:

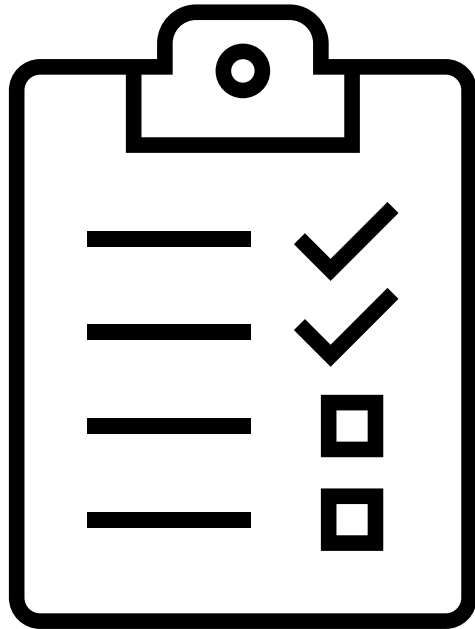
- Enhancing safety across public spaces.
- Improving the speed and success of investigations.
- Strengthening crime deterrence through technology.

Community Concerns:

- Protecting individual privacy and the oversight of technology.
- The role of AI.
- Data sharing with federal agencies.

Clarifications Based on Feedback:

- AI is not continuously monitoring or running in the background.
- It is a staff-assistive search tool used for post incident review of archived video.
- AI does not generate new data or content – it helps analyze existing video.
- All proposed technologies are widely used by peer agencies – Mankato is not an early adopter.



What We Are Looking For

- Council direction on the implementation of proposed technology enhancements, with a focus on privacy, oversight, and responsible data practices.
- Support for a phased approach shaped by community feedback, statutory requirements, and national best practices.



Community Feedback Shaped Our Approach

- Policies and protocols have been updated based upon public input.
 - Annual ALPR Audit (Not biennial).
 - All queries with Flock require case number.
- Enhanced accountability through annual ALPR audits (not every 2 years as required by state statute).
- Clearly defined use cases to ensure appropriate application.
- Data retention limits strengthened (30-60 days).
- Aligned with national best practices and Minnesota State Statutes.

Timeline of Implementation

Q2 2025

Q3 2025

Q4 2025

2026

- Finalize Policies
- Council Approval
- Activate Axon ALPR

- Activate AI Search (Milestone)
- Scope Trailer Camera Options

- Deploy Trailer Camera
- Install FLOCK Cameras

- Conduct Audit
- Public Reporting

Public Safety Recommendation

Strategic Alignment

Enhancements support the City of Mankato's Strategic Plan and Public Safety Department goals:

- **Efficiency** – Strengthens investigative capabilities and reduces staff time
- **Accountability** – Technology is governed by clear policies, individual access controls, and audit trails
- **Safety** – Improves community safety, responsiveness, and situational awareness

Budget

Platform	Cost
Milestone	\$55,000
Axon ALPR	No Cost – Included in Contract
Flock	\$40,000
Mobile Trailer Camera	\$30,000
Totals	\$125,000

Funded via IT Capital and Public Safety Aid