

**LOCAL NEWS****EPD gets computer system**[Print Page](#)

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The Edwardsville Police Department will acquire a new computer software system with more benefits than its current program.

The city council approved the purchase of a new computer aided dispatch, records management system, mobile data computer software and licenses from the company Crimestar on Tuesday.

Police Chief James Bedell said the new software will provide more options for the department to report and evaluate crimes, crime trends and calls for service.

"The program itself is a quantum leap from what we have today," Bedell said.

A big bonus of the new system would be that officers could complete a report on site and send it back to the department.

Bedell said the department's current software does not have these options.

The police department received three bids on the system: \$287,550 from New World Systems (and that includes a \$313,000 enterprise license discount due to a Madison County purchasing licenses); \$455,000 from Spillman Systems and \$55,559.30 from Crimestar.

Bedell told the city's Finance Committee last week that the department had contacted the clients of each of the bidders and Crimestar, the lowest bidder, had the best feedback from its clients for its support and its product.

The software was a capital expenditure purchase for the police department.

Public Safety Chair Dorothy Hummel said the police department evaluated all three option and chose Crimestar. Hummel said the Public Safety Committee agreed and recommended the council approve the purchase of the software.

Hummel said the Crimestar software will cost the department \$15,000 in fees per year, and that is \$6,000 less per year than what the department is paying now.

In addition, she said the department will have to have someone come and write a program to add the department's current information to the new system. Bedell estimates the cost of that is between \$2,000 and \$10,000.

In other business, the council conducted its first reading on the ordinance amending the city's commercial and heavy vehicle ordinance and moved it forward to the Administrative Community Services (ACS) Committee for further review.

The ACS Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 10 at City Hall.

The measure is expected to return to city council for a final vote on Sept. 16.

The amendment, "all references to pound limit or gross vehicle weight are amended to reflect

registered weight for the purpose of enforcement," would change the ordinance to allow police officers to enforce the city's vehicle weight limit ordinance based on license plate classifications.

Currently, the police department would have to weigh overweight vehicles on a scale before issuing a citation.

According to Bedell, second division vehicles must purchase a registration or license plate and receive an assigned weight indicator on their license plate, such as the indicator "F" for those vehicles weighing 12,001 to 16,000 pounds.

If an overweight vehicle is traveling on a city roadway, such as St. Louis Street which has a limit of 20,000 pounds, the new ordinance would thus allow an officer to issue a citation for that offense.

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