

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
Seattle Police Department	James Britt	Geoffrey Detweiler

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE relating to surveillance technology implementation; authorizing approval of uses and accepting the 2025 updated surveillance impact report and 2025 executive overview for the Seattle Police Department’s use of Tracking Devices; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Summary and Background of the Legislation: The original Surveillance Impact Report (SIR) for Tracking Devices (Ordinance 126776) was adopted by the City Council on February 28, 2023. Subsection 14.18.020.F of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) states that "[a]ny material update to an SIR, such as to change the purpose or manner in which a surveillance technology may be used, shall be by ordinance."

SPD utilizes geolocation trackers to track and locate vehicle information during criminal investigations. Geolocation trackers are devices that SPD utilizes as a tool to locate and track the movements and locations of vehicles. Trackers are utilized only after obtaining legal authority via a court order or consent, and once the consent or terms of the order have expired all data collected is maintained only in the investigation file. SPD is seeking a \$250,000 Washington State Department of Commerce Law Enforcement Pursuit Technology grant that will assist local law enforcement in vehicle pursuit mitigation. SPD acquiring pursuit mitigation GPS tracker launchers qualifies as a material update, therefore requiring this proposed legislation. SPD is seeking this grant and tool in accordance with RCW 10.116.060.2.d, which requires agencies to “develop a plan to end the pursuit through the use of available pursuit intervention options.” This specialized GPS tracker allows SPD to track the precise location of a vehicle for which probable cause or reasonable suspicion of involvement in a crime has been established and accomplish the task of recovery or arrest without the need for initiating or continuing a vehicle pursuit. SPD is proposing a pilot for 25 SPD patrol vehicles to be equipped with GPS tracker launchers, deployed throughout the patrol operations bureau precincts. All sworn SPD officers will be trained in the use of pursuit mitigation GPS trackers, ensuring compliance with recent state law updates regarding pursuit mitigation. Pursuit mitigation GPS trackers will be monitored by the Real Time Crime Center and information will be relayed to patrol units in the field.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?

☐ Yes ☒ No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Expenditure Change (\$); General Fund	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
Expenditure Change (\$); Other Funds	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
	\$250,000*				

Revenue Change (\$); General Fund	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
Revenue Change (\$); Other Funds	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
	\$250,000*				

Number of Positions	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
Total FTE Change	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.

* This funding was accepted and appropriated via the 2024 Q3 Grant Acceptance, Ordinance 127149.

3.a. Appropriations

☐ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.

3.b. Revenues/Reimbursements

☐ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes revenues or reimbursements.

3.c. Positions

☐ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.

3.d. Other Impacts

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.

The \$250,000 Washington State Department of Commerce Law Enforcement Pursuit Technology grant covers the first two years of the project. If effective, there will be ongoing costs of \$37,500 annually if the technology is retained after the first two years of subscription.

Cost savings may be seen in reduced liability from decreased number of vehicle pursuits, which often result in litigation. Additionally, pursuits often result in damage to city owned equipment, specifically police cars. This technology can reduce those costs as well by negating the need for pursuits.

Additional grants may be available in the future to provide ongoing funding, should the department decide to increase or continue the deployment.

If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.

The subject equipment will be purchased using funding provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce under the Law Enforcement Vehicle Pursuit Technology grant program. This funding was accepted and appropriated via the 2024 Q3 Grant Acceptance (ORD. 127149).

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.

SPD policy restricts officers from engaging in vehicle pursuits unless certain criteria are met. The devices funded through this legislation will provide a way for officers to track suspected criminals without engaging in vehicle pursuits, which could reduce the risk to the public and potential claims costs.

Please describe how this legislation may affect any City departments other than the originating department.

N/A

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**
No.
- b. Is publication of notice with The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times required for this legislation?**
No.
- c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**
No.
- d. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.**

- i. **How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.**

The Surveillance Ordinance is designed to address civil liberties and disparate community impacts of surveillance technologies. The Surveillance Impact Review included in the attachments, as required by the Surveillance Ordinance, includes a Racial Equity Toolkit review adapted for this purpose.

- ii. **Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.**

N/A

- iii. **What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?**

N/A

e. Climate Change Implications

- i. **Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.**

N/A

- ii. **Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**

N/A

- f. **If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?**

N/A

- g. **Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?**

No.

5. ATTACHMENTS

Summary Attachments: None.