



MEMORANDUM TO VENICE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Information Technology Director

DEPARTMENT: Information Technology

THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER: City Manager

E-SIGN:

DATE: Oct. 16, 2025

MEETING DATE: Oct. 21 2025

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: Presentation with Action Requested

SUPPORTS STRATEGIC PLAN: Goal Two: Provide Efficient, Responsive Government with High Quality Services

SUBJECT / TOPIC: Robot Assistants Pilot Program: IT Help Desk, 24/7 Monitoring & Response, Security at Airport and Water Reclamation Facility

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: We are requesting your consideration and approval of funds to acquire a small fleet of multi-purpose robot assistants for various essential purposes across our city. These robots will serve as valuable assets for many City departments including Information Technology, Police, Fire, Airport, Water Reclamation Facility, etc.. Their role is to enhance, not replace, our workforce, backing up staff and enabling staff to focus on higher-value responsibilities while improving operational efficiency, safety, and service delivery. This investment will significantly strengthen our City's capabilities, ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents.

Purpose and Benefits:

1. Assist Information Technology with on-site installation and troubleshooting for staff across the city, including monitors, computers, docks, phones, and other hardware.
2. Assist Police and/or Code Enforcement staff in identifying, recommending, and evening issuing citations if desired. In high-risk scenarios, IT Help Desk robots can minimize human exposure to danger when fixing laptops in the field.
3. Assist Public Works for Emergency Operations Center duties, including sandbag distribution work, perform post-storm cleanup, and identify hazards like downed power lines, ensuring faster and safer disaster response.
4. Robots can conduct regular perimeter checks at the Airport to ensure security and safety, and assist with maintenance, taxiway sign issue identification/repair, lawn care, and support airport operations by assisting pilots with parking and fueling needs.

5. Robot assistants can assist the Water Reclamation Facility by handling environment sampling by monitoring and measuring bacteria levels continuously and accurately. They can provide 24/7 pump monitoring, ensuring real-time alerts and system adjustments without human intervention. They can transport hazardous materials and other biohazard duties, reducing risk to personnel and improving compliance with safety standards. It can also do perimeter checks throughout the day ensuring security.

Compliance and Regulation:

Our proposal includes a commitment to operating the robots responsibly and in full compliance with all applicable laws, safety standards, and privacy requirements. We will ensure that the robots enhance city services while respecting legal, ethical, and safety obligations.

Public Input:

We plan to hold public hearings and gather community input to address any concerns or suggestions related to the deployment of robot assistants. We are committed to maintaining transparency and public trust throughout the process.

Request Details:

Each robot will operate for five years, with a workload of 15-20 hours per day for an average of 122 hours per week per robot (weekends included). We request your approval for the allocation of \$300,000 to purchase 3 robots. The total cost for each robot is \$100,000, or \$20,000 per year per robot over 5 years. An alternative is a lease-to-own program, providing flexibility of monthly payments of \$2,000 per robot.

We are prepared to provide any additional information or answer questions you may have regarding this proposal.

Thank you for considering this important request. Your support will help us embrace innovative solutions that streamline operations, enhance public safety, and ensure reliable services for our community.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The Information Technology department requests City Council to review and approve the robot assistant plan for use by July 4th 2026.

Yes N/A

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|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| ☒ | ☐ | Document(s) Reviewed for ADA compliance <small>(required if for agenda posting)</small> |
| ☐ | ☒ | City Attorney Reviewed/Approval |
| ☐ | ☒ | Risk Management Review |
| ☐ | ☒ | Finance Department Review/Approval |
| Funds Availability (account number): Click or tap here to enter text. | | |

Original(s) attached: Images of example uses.

Cc: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Appendix: Images of Robot Assistants

High-temperature, low-oxygen scenarios



Debris cleanup and constant perimeter security



IT Help Desk in high-risk scenarios



Water Reclamation scenarios

