

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: Stephanie Biggs, Administrative Assistant, Earl Heidelberg, City Marshal, and Toni Kunz, City Administrator

Date: October 5, 2026

Agenda Item: Body Worn & Dash Cameras

Action Requested: Discussion and action

Overview and Background:

Body cameras provide transparency and accountability for the department and the City. They also provide critical evidence for prosecutors and help protect deputies, the department, and the City from unfounded claims and lawsuits, making them a vital tool for the department.

The WatchGuard camera system currently in use by our Marshal's Department is no longer supported by Motorola. This system has been patched and maintained for years and is overdue for replacement. Failing components are being replaced with used parts purchased through eBay and the WatchGuard cameras do not stay charged for an entire shift, which becomes more problematic with each passing day.

The Marshal has researched available options and is requesting the failing camera system be replaced with the most recent release of state-of-the-art equipment from Motorola Solutions. The Motorola system has been thoroughly tested by The Texas Department of Public Safety and is currently used by their State Troopers.

The new Motorola system will sync body-worn and dash cameras, eliminating the need for deputies to carry separate in-car microphones. Video will be automatically uploaded to Motorola's secure, cloud-based storage, eliminating our current storage limitations and the time deputies spend downloading video to a USB drive and physically bringing it to the office for server upload. And, with this new release, it is the system that will have the longest support and set up our Marshal's Department for many years to come.

On July 29, 2026, the City applied for a grant from The Hal & Charlie Peterson Foundation, established 1944 in Kerrville, Texas, to procure the desperately needed new camera system. On September 8th, we were notified by the foundation that they were awarding us \$50,000. Working with new information regarding our vehicle requirements, Sgt. Teer reached out to Motorola for an updated quote for the patrol units only. The new quote, included in your packet, totals \$86,789.64. The pricing summary outlined on page 4 of the quote includes installation (page 2). The cost of this new system includes body camera replacement after three years and professional installation by a licensed Motorola installer, ensuring the equipment is properly installed and warranted. This choice of system, which is designed to minimize future costs, has no major upgrades anticipated anytime soon. The in-car equipment can also be transferred to replacement vehicles when leases expire, eliminating the need to purchase new equipment with each vehicle.

Staff Recommendation: The remaining balance, after the awarded \$50,000, is applied, of \$36,789.64 would need to be budgeted and paid annually from the Marshal's budget starting in 2028, year 2 of the contract, in the amount of \$9,197.41 per year for 4 years. Depending on what month the first payment in 2027 is due, we may need to make a budget amendment for FY27. Otherwise, it can be budgeted accordingly beginning FY28.