



Michael Richter, Chief of Police

Chipley Police Department City of Chipley, Florida

1430 JACKSON AVENUE, • P.O. BOX 1007 • CHIPLEY, FLORIDA 32428
PHONE (850) 638-6310 • FAX (850) 638-6327

Memo

Attention: Patrice Tanner

Subject: Budget Request for the Purchase of New Body Worn Cameras

Introduction

Our body camera program, initiated in 2013, has significantly enhanced our operations by promoting transparency, fostering community trust, aiding evidence collection for law enforcement and the State Attorney's Office, and identifying areas where individual officer training is needed. The current body camera system we use is the Watchguard Vista WiFi body cameras, which are no longer supported by the manufacturer and are at the end of their life cycle. Our current supply of cameras is less than Officers staffed, creating a significant problem. Given the crucial role these cameras play in our daily operations, it is imperative to purchase new cameras and upgrade our system as quickly as possible.

Department Overview

Our department consists of:

11 sworn law enforcement officers

8 sworn positions dedicated to patrol

2 sworn investigators

1 Chief of Police

2 non-sworn administrative positions



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Although our city, Chipley, has a smaller population of about 3,600 residents, Department of Transportation studies show that over 17,000 vehicles travel through our city every day. As the county seat of Washington County, Chipley houses the bulk of businesses and jobs in the county. Although our Department is small, we have a significant number of encounters with residents and non-residents daily. Our Department policy dictates Officers will have their body cameras activated during these encounters.

Current System and Issues

Current System: Watchguard Vista WiFi body cameras.

System Integration: The body cameras communicate through the in-car Watchguard system, enabling features such as charging while docked, video upload via WiFi, and automatic activation when emergency lights are turned on.

Issues:

- Cameras are no longer supported by the manufacturer.
- Several cameras have failed, and others are malfunctioning.
- Reserve camera stock is depleted.
- Current available body cameras are less than Officers staffed.
- Batteries are internal and do not allow for quick change between shifts.
- Batteries charge only last a typical shift, not allowing for cameras to be shared, preventing our ability to overcome the depleted supply
- The current system requires a complete update for compatibility with new models.
- Old models not compatible with new system.
- Proposed fix is complete replacement of existing cameras and software system.



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Proposed Purchase of New System

Manufacturer: Motorola

Components:

- 10 body cameras
- 10 batteries
- 10 charging stations
- New software system

Features:

- Enhanced video quality and reliability.
- Improved battery life and charging efficiency.
- Seamless integration with existing in-car systems for video upload and automatic activation.

Financial Breakdown

The quote received from Motorola for the new system totals \$30,977.00. The breakdown of pricing per item is included in the quote and will be attached to this memo for review.

Justification for Purchase

1. Enhanced Transparency and Community Trust: Continuing our commitment to transparency and trust, the new body cameras will ensure continued accountability in interactions between officers and the public.
2. Vital Evidence Collection: Reliable body cameras are essential for gathering evidence that supports investigations and prosecutions.



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3. Officer Training and Evaluation: The footage from body cameras is a critical tool for identifying training needs and improving officer performance.

4. Operational Efficiency: New cameras will integrate with our existing systems, ensuring seamless operations and minimizing downtime. Upgrading to current supported system will allow for purchase of new hardware, (body, and in car cameras), as needed for department expansion, and replacement of faulty equipment.

Conclusion

The purchase of the new body camera system is essential for maintaining the high standards of our body camera program. It will ensure continued transparency, trust, and efficiency in our law enforcement operations. We request approval for the \$30,977.00 expenditure to purchase the new system from Motorola.

References

Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services: Studies show that body-worn cameras promote accountability and transparency within police departments.

National Institute of Justice: Research indicates that body-worn cameras can improve evidence collection, which is critical for successful prosecutions.

International Association of Chiefs of Police: Body-worn cameras are shown to be an effective tool for training and evaluating police officers.

Michael Richter

Chief

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Richter".