

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	BJA FY24 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office – Office of Justice Programs – Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for funds to purchase body-worn cameras the Sheriff’s Office, in the amount of \$300,000, or as otherwise awarded, with a 100% in-kind match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount of the award.
INITIATED BY:	Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office

Recommendation: Approval is requested to apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office – Office of Justice Programs – Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for funds to purchase body-worn cameras the Sheriff’s Office, in the amount of \$300,000, or as otherwise awarded, with a 100% in-kind match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount of the award.

Background: BJA seeks to support the purchase of body-worn cameras (BWCs) by publicly funded law enforcement and corrections agencies as part of comprehensive BWC programs. The solicitation seeks to support demonstration projects that advance digital evidence management, leveraging BWC digital footage to promote evidence-based and procedurally just practices in agencies.

Analysis: These funds are available through the U.S. Department of Justice.

Financial Considerations: There is a 100% in-kind match requirement. “In-kind” match may be in the form of services, supplies, real property, and equipment.

Legal Considerations: The Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office is eligible to apply for and receive these funds if awarded, and will be obligated to the conditions of the grant award.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested for the application for and acceptance, if awarded, of a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office – Office of Justice Programs – Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for funds to purchase body-worn cameras the Sheriff’s Office, in the amount of \$300,000, or as otherwise awarded, with a 100% in-kind match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount of the award.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT, IF AWARDED, A GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE – OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS – BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FOR FUNDS TO PURCHASE BODY-WORN CAMERAS THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000, OR AS OTHERWISE AWARDED, WITH A 50% CASH OR IN-KIND MATCH REQUIRED, AND AMEND THE MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL FUND BUDGET BY THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD. FUNDS WILL BE UTILIZED FOR EXPANDING THE CURRENT BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM TO BE INCLUSIVE OF CORRECTIONAL STAFF IN THE MUSCOGEE COUNTY JAIL.

WHEREAS, BJA FY24 Body-Worn Camera funds are used to advance digital evidence management, leveraging BWC digital footage to promote evidence-based and procedurally just practices; and,

WHEREAS, the Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office has been authorized by U.S. Department of Justice Office – Office of Justice Programs – Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). to apply for \$300,000.00 of grant monies; and,

WHEREAS, the effective management of data generated from BWCs has become vital to modern criminal and juvenile justice system practices. Law enforcement and correctional agencies’ sharing of digital evidence generated from BWCs with other agencies, prosecutors’ offices, defense counsel, and the judiciary is becoming more common, increasing the need for innovation and training around best practices; and,

WHEREAS, funding is from the BJA FY24 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies; and,

WHEREAS, funds will be utilized for purchasing 150 body-worn cameras for expanding the current body-worn camera program to be inclusive of correctional staff in the Muscogee County Jail; and,

WHEREAS, there is a 100% in-kind match required. “In-kind” match may be in the form of services, supplies, real property, and equipment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager, the Mayor, or their designee to apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office – Office of Justice Programs – Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for funds to purchase body-worn cameras the Sheriff’s Office, in the amount of \$300,000, or as otherwise awarded, with a 100% in-kind match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount of the award.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the _____ day of _____, 2024, and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ten members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting _____
Councilor Chambers voting _____
Councilor Cogle voting _____
Councilor Crabb voting _____
Councilor Davis voting _____
Councilor Garrett voting _____
Councilor Hickey voting _____
Councilor Huff voting _____
Councilor Thomas voting _____
Councilor Tucker voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor