



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Renewal of Body Worn Camera, In-Car Camera, Taser Conducted Energy Device, and Evidence.com digital evidence storage contract

CEQA: Not a project

Recommendation: That Council (1) Authorize the Police Chief to sign a new 5-year agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc., subject to legal review and approval for FY 2024/25 budget; (2) find that the procurement of Axon products and services are subject to sole source purchase pursuant to Municipal Code section 3.08.140 (requires 4/5 vote)

Prepared by: Alexander K. Gammelgard, Chief of Police

Council Meeting Date: 06/25/2024

Date Prepared: 06/19/2024

Agenda: Consent

Background Information: The Police Department implemented body worn cameras in early 2016. After extensive research and testing, the Axon platform was selected. Since that time, we have expanded the use of BWCs to additional personnel, including community service officers and fire department investigators. The program has been incredibly successful with widespread acceptance and appreciation for the tool by members of the department. On countless occasions the existence of BWC footage has helped to exonerate officers against false or misleading complaints, provide for exceptional criminal evidence, and help enlighten the public on the work we do. The use of BWCs by police agencies are now more a rule than an exception. The public expects their use, and their value far exceeds their costs. They further the objective of police transparency and make a strong case related to police legitimacy.

As with all things technological, BWCs and their supporting software and technology is continuously evolving. GVPD uses a suite of backend support products in addition to Axon hardware. Video files from Axon BWC devices are seamlessly uploaded to the evidence.com secure cloud storage environment. We share evidence with the District Attorney's office through a secure evidence.com portal and manage our video files online, limiting the amount of human interaction needed to administer the program. Nonetheless, the management of this amount of data does take time and effort, but through the well-designed technology, we are able to maintain our records for seamless use and criminal court discovery purposes.

Because of the value of video evidence in policing, we added Axon Fleet in-car cameras to our fleet of patrol vehicles a couple of years ago. With integration of ALPR technology, we are able to detect crime in real time as well as record valuable evidentiary material from the vehicle and on officers.

All of this data is seamlessly integrated into evidence.com, an online cloud-based evidence management and chain of custody tracking repository software.

This contract will update all Taser conducted energy devices (CED) from the Taser 7 platform to the newest and most advanced Taser device, the Taser 10. With a maximum range of 45 feet, Taser 10 creates more time and space to de-escalate and resolve conflicts. If de-escalation fails, Taser 10 provides officers with much greater less-lethal options by deploying up to 10 individually targeted probes without the need to reload. This is a complete game changer in the space of CED deployment, allowing a higher likelihood of resolving uses of force without the need for escalation. Taser 10 advancements in accuracy, effectiveness and reliability mean less likelihood of escalation to lethal force.

Since the inception of the body worn camera program, Measure E funds have borne the costs of the Axon contract(s). It is proposed that upon adoption of the contract that Measure E funds will continue to pay the Axon contract costs under the “non-personal services” budget. Existing Measure E preliminary budget allocations are adequate to fund this contract. The Measure E Committee has approved these costs in the past and will be apprised of this contract at the meeting set for 06/24/2024.

Sole Source Justification: Staff has conducted a good faith review of the available sources of these types of technology products. No other provider maintains a suite of these products that can be acquired through one vendor. Even if it was available, the burden to change technology providers would be incredibly burdensome to staff and partner agencies. All products integrate seamlessly across the Axon platform and build efficiencies as a result. It is staff’s recommendation to continue with Axon products in that they offer unique products and services that enhance public safety and the safety of police officers. Pursuant to the City purchasing ordinance, City Council may, by 4/5 vote, approve this purchase when it “determines, based upon staff conducting a good faith review of available sources or staff recommendation of the city’s need for unique or custom goods or services...”

Council Goals/Objectives: The execution of this action attempts to achieve Strategic Goal #6 - Exceptional Public Safety

Fiscal Impact: This is a renewal of the Axon Enterprise, Inc. contract. The total costs are outlined in the attached contract as well as the summary document (attached). Year 1 costs are approximately \$9,000 more than the current year’s costs of the existing contract. Years 2-5 are fixed at a cost approximately \$5,000 more than the current year’s costs. This contract will incorporate all Axon products and services under one contract.

Future increase/decrease in users (staff) may have a cost impact to ensure consistent feature and product sets across users. The updated contract is based upon current full staffed levels.

Funds Available: Yes

Account #: 100-201

Reviewed by: City Manager