

Proposal Narrative

A. Statement of the Problem

The Village of Lake Orion Police Department (LOPD) currently operates without body-worn cameras (BWCs), and an outdated in-car video system. placing the agency at a disadvantage in meeting community expectations for accountability, transparency, and digital evidence management. As a small but full-service law enforcement agency, LOPD serves a year-round residential population along with thousands of visitors drawn to the community's major public events, festivals, and waterfront attractions. The department responds to a wide range of calls, from routine traffic enforcement to complex criminal investigations.

The absence of BWCs limits the department's ability to document officer-citizen encounters, resolve citizen complaints efficiently, and provide high-quality video evidence for prosecutorial purposes. This project addresses those critical needs by establishing a comprehensive BWC program that enhances officer safety, strengthens public trust, and improves evidentiary integrity.

In recent years, community members have expressed growing expectations that all police officers be equipped with body cameras. Neighboring agencies in Oakland County have already implemented similar systems, demonstrating measurable benefits in complaint resolution, officer professionalism, and case prosecution efficiency. The Lake Orion Police Department's implementation of this program will bring the Village in line with modern policing standards and ensure consistent accountability practices across local law enforcement partners.

B. Project Design and Implementation

The Body-Worn Camera Implementation and Policy Development Project will be a six-month initiative designed to establish LOPD's first BWC program. The project will include equipment procurement, policy development, training, deployment, and evaluation.

Key Activities and Timeline:

November 2025: Conduct pre-procurement planning and vendor evaluation. Identify BWC systems meeting DOJ standards, obtain quotes, and confirm technical requirements with the Village IT and Prosecutor's Office.

December 2025: Complete procurement process in accordance with Village and federal purchasing policies. Finalize vendor selection and purchase order for cameras, accessories, and digital evidence management software.

January 2026: Develop and adopt comprehensive BWC policy consistent with DOJ, Michigan law, and best practices. Configure storage, user permissions, and system integration.

February 2026: Conduct officer and supervisor training on BWC use, data retention, privacy, and evidence management. Prepare deployment checklists and technical support resources.

March 2026: Phase I deployment to patrol officers; conduct pilot testing, evaluate footage handling, and troubleshoot any technical issues.

April 2026: Full deployment to all sworn personnel; begin regular recording, evidence uploads, and performance monitoring.

May 2026: Evaluate program outcomes, review footage handling procedures, and finalize training documentation and closeout report for submission to BJA.

Equipment and Systems:

The department will procure modern body-worn camera hardware and a digital evidence management system from an established vendor meeting CJIS security standard. The system may be cloud-based, on-premise, or hybrid, depending on cost effectiveness and integration with existing Village infrastructure. It will provide secure storage, tagging, and sharing of digital evidence with prosecutors and other justice partners.

Policy Development:

The Lake Orion Police Department will develop a comprehensive Body-Worn Camera policy by reviewing and adapting established best-practice policies from peer agencies and the Michigan Municipal League (MML) liability pool. The draft policy will be reviewed by Village legal counsel and vetted in coordination with the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office to ensure alignment with state law, federal guidance, and local prosecutorial standards. The final policy will address camera activation, data security, retention, supervisory review, privacy protections, and public disclosure requirements.

Training:

All sworn officers will receive in-person training covering operational use, policy compliance, and legal implications of recording. Supervisors will receive additional instruction on auditing and reporting procedures.

C. Capabilities and Competencies

The Lake Orion Police Department is a professional municipal law enforcement agency committed to community-oriented policing, transparency, and accountability. The department is led by Police Chief Mark Amundson, who has extensive experience in police operations, technology integration, and interagency coordination.

The Village of Lake Orion's financial management is overseen by the Village Manager and Treasurer, ensuring compliance with GAAP and state audit requirements. The Village has successfully managed other federally funded programs in partnership with Oakland County and the State of Michigan, maintaining strong financial controls and transparent reporting

practices.

LOPD maintains close partnerships with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, and surrounding municipal departments. These relationships will ensure consistent handling of digital evidence and seamless coordination in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

D. Plan for Collecting Data and Measuring Performance

The department will collect data on BWC usage, evidentiary uploads, complaint resolutions, and prosecutorial requests to evaluate program outcomes. Specific metrics will include:

- Number of BWCs deployed and operational.
- Percentage of officer shifts recorded.
- Number of video files shared with prosecutors.
- Feedback from prosecutors regarding evidentiary quality.

The Chief of Police and Village Manager will review these data quarterly and incorporate results into annual departmental performance reports submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance as required.

E. Sustainability

Following the conclusion of the federal funding period, the Village of Lake Orion will sustain the BWC program through its annual police operations budget. Maintenance costs, software licensing, and data storage will be integrated into the department's long-term technology plan.

The Village recognizes the BWC program as a permanent component of its accountability and officer-safety strategy and is committed to maintaining the system beyond the initial grant period.

F. Conclusion

The Body-Worn Camera Implementation and Policy Development Project represents a foundational step toward modernizing the Lake Orion Police Department, improving evidentiary outcomes, and strengthening public confidence in local law enforcement. With this project, LOPD will establish a fully operational BWC program supported by robust policies, training, and digital evidence management ensuring accountability, professionalism, and transparency in every police interaction.