



CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

DATE: February 5, 2024

FROM: Tyson Cheek, Chief of Police

AGENDA ITEM: Consideration and possible action on Resolution 2024-01, authorizing the Sanger Police Department to pursue grant funding from the state in order to purchase new body worn cameras for the police department.

SUMMARY:

- The Sanger Police Department is currently operating Watchguard brand BWCs that are out of service life and warranty. Several of the BWCs are currently not working properly and getting them repaired is becoming more problematic and less cost efficient.
- The software for video review works for internal department needs, but it does not allow for digitally blocking identifying information of those in the video. This prevents us from releasing more recordings when requested or needed, and reduces transparency with the public. Modern software that comes with new systems allows this type of editing.
- Media storage is currently handled by an onsite physical server. Physical storage media is expensive to upgrade. This limits retention times and puts the media at risk of loss from equipment failure or fire.
- New BWC systems come with the purchase of cloud-based storage which is more secure and allows for better backup. Data sharing with other agencies including prosecutors can be accomplished through web links rather than having to download and physically transfer media, which is both safer and less time consuming.
- The Body Worn Camera Grant funds for these projects are authorized under the Texas General Appropriations Act, Article I, Rider 35 for Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor. Funds may be used for obtaining body-worn cameras, digital video storage, and retrieval systems or cloud-based services. Subscriptions and/or leasing services that fall within the 12-month performance period are eligible.
- Awarding of this grant requires a funding match of 25% by the agency accepting the grant. The last quote I received from Axon for Body Worn Cameras and all that comes with the system was \$102,195 for 19 BWCs. If costs are similar at the time of the new bid quote, it would require just under \$26,000 in matching funds from the city.
- This discussion item is being presented today because the grant application period ends February 8th, 2024, and is for the grant funding year 2025 which starts in October 2024.
- If the grant is awarded, this will commit the city to meeting the required match amount of 25% of the grant spending in the 2025 budget year.

FISCAL INFORMATION:

Budgeted: No Amount: GL Account:

RECOMMENDED MOTION OR ACTION:

Staff recommends approval.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution