



## CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

**DATE:** February 5, 2024

**FROM:** Tyson Cheek, Chief of Police

**AGENDA ITEM:** Consideration and possible on Resolution 2024-02, action authorizing the Sanger Police Department to pursue grant funding from the state in order to purchase new in-car cameras for the police department.

### **SUMMARY:**

- The Sanger Police Department is currently operating Watchguard brand in-car cameras that are beyond their service life and warranty. Their data labeling capability is limited and we hope to be upgrading to new BWCs in the coming year, which will make the in-car cameras incompatible.
- The current software for video review works for internal department needs, but it does not allow for digitally blocking of 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 in-car camera 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.
- Funds for these projects are authorized under authorized under 34 U.S.C. §10152 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). JAG funds are made available through a Congressional appropriation to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance but applied for through the NTCOG. This is a competitive grants and awarding of funds is not guaranteed.
- The last quote received from Axon for in-car cameras and all that comes with the system was just under 171,000 for 19 units. If awarded, the JAG grant does not require matching funds.
- This discussion item is being presented today because the grant application period ends February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and is for the grant funding year 2025 which starts in October 2024.

### **FISCAL INFORMATION:**

Budgeted: No                      Amount:                      GL Account:

### **RECOMMENDED MOTION OR ACTION:**

Staff recommends approval.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution