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# SANTAQUIN/GENOLA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Rodney Hurst

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January 31, 2023

**To:** Santaquin City Council

**From:** Chief Hurst

**RE:** Body-Worn/Vehicle Cameras

Dear Santaquin City Council,

In 2017 the Santaquin City Police Department changed camera vendors from Digital Ally to the WatchGuard system. SQPD was with Digital Ally since the inception of vehicle cameras 25+ years ago. We didn't want to make a change, but the lack of expected performance by the vendor forced us into a difficult position.

In 2017 the cloud-based storage that is so common today was new, expensive, and not ready with the encryption required by law enforcement agencies. Therefore, an onsite server (storage unit) was installed with encryption to store digital data. Based on the number of officers, the life span of the 5-terabyte server was estimated to be five years. The life span would be shortened as new employees were added.

Up until two years ago, we were satisfied with WatchGuard. Although the body-worn cameras (BWC) had occasional issues, the offsite support was exceptional. Motorola acquired WatchGuard about two years ago and discontinued the free offsite and onsite technical support. Furthermore, our onsite server was at full capacity and nearing the end of its life expectancy. Couple this with Motorola's decision to roll out a new BWC without the ability to supply new cameras or even provide an approximate delivery date. The cameras still under the factory warranty were not being replaced in a reasonable amount of time.

Additionally, onsite storage devices were no longer an option with any camera system unless the devices exceeded one-hundred units and we had a full-time IT department (GeTac only). Thus, we started exploring different options. We looked at four other vendor options and ran three (3) 30-day field trials with GeTac, Axon, and LensLock.

The initial price varies slightly between the vendors, but the deciding factor came down to the end cost of the storage space, user licenses (hidden fees), redaction software, and technical support. I would be happy to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each vendor, but I don't want to make this memo any longer than necessary.

My recommendation, which is supported by the end user (office staff), is LensLock. It is the only vendor that offers the same service and quality as Axon but doesn't charge for data storage. In addition, they will provide free redaction, free interview room cameras, and free user licenses to prosecutors.

It should be noted that the attached lease agreement is for fifteen (15) BWC and two (2) vehicle cameras. The price will increase on a prorated basis as we add more cameras to the system. I suggest adding vehicle cameras to the lease agreement as we purchase new vehicles.

The annual Beer Tax funds shall cover the yearly cost. The Beer Tax amount was raised from \$14,637 in 2022 to \$22,800 in 2023. The funds must be used for alcohol enforcement or equipment to prosecute alcohol violations. BWC and vehicle cameras qualify for this funding. This will allow us to cover the cost of the yearly lease payments, including four additional vehicle cameras, before requesting more financing through other means.

**NOTE:** *Beer Tax funds are based on population, number of alcohol retailers, and alcohol-related convictions. Our alcohol-related convictions went from 53 in 2021 to 125 in 2022. Thus, it is impactful to have proactive enforcement and a vigorous prosecution strategy.*

The cost of the project was budgeted in the 2022/23 fiscal budget year. 75% of the funding for this initial cost is Beer Tax that must be expended by July 2023. This is not a new or unfunded request that would require a budget amendment.

This will also be a topic of discussion at the budget retreat – If you would like further information, I would be happy to address any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Chief Rodney Hurst