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W. Cliff Howard
Chief Assistant DA

October 23, 2026

To: Walton County Manager – John Ward
From: Amber Dally – District Attorney
Re: Axon Premier Plus Contract

Mr. Ward,

Currently the Alcovy Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office has a contract with Axon Justice allowing us the use of their evidence.com database referred to as Axon Premier which has been tremendously helpful in digesting, storing, editing and distributing evidence. The system, as it exists, saves countless hours of work for attorneys, trial assistants and investigators. Axon allowed us to have a free trial of their newly created Axon Premier Plus version this summer. The Axon Premier Plus version of their database allows for even more efficiency. Axon Plus allows for increased translation services for evidence existing in languages other than English, it allows for more user-friendly interfaces for searching through large evidence files and it utilizes AI summaries for large pieces of evidence. For example, it summarizes body worn camera videos and interviews that may be hours upon hours long and highlights key points throughout the video that may be relevant. These three tools alone will contribute to saving hours of work time for attorneys, investigators and trial assistants.

Additionally, while I have not had the chance to beta test this tool myself, Axon Plus will also come with a cell phone extraction viewer. Currently, cell phone extractions are very helpful pieces of evidence but are cumbersome to open and review because they are often larger than a regular computer. Some phones are larger than a terabyte of data these days and I've had phone extractions that when opened in pdf format are over 200,000 pages. Therefore, cell phone extractions must be viewed in special software on a high processing gaming computer. The extraction viewer Axon is developing would allow us to view these extractions in a web-based browser. The ability to view this kind of evidence, without an expensive gaming computer, on any web browser on each person's laptop would be incredibly efficient. However, in the interest of transparency, I am concerned that this feature of Axon Plus will not be ready to be released or fully effective in December 2026 as Axon promises. Therefore, I had concerns signing up for a contract for 5 years without further assurances.

In light of my concerns, Axon has offered a free year trial period with an opt-out provision in the contract. Thus, starting December 1, 2026, our office would get 1 year of Axon Premier Plus without having to pay for the increase that specific year. If the product does not deliver as Axon promises and/or we are unhappy with it for any reason (i.e. the cell phone viewer never fully comes to fruition or is ineffective), we can opt out of the Plus contract and our contract would revert back to its current state without the County having to pay any additional monies. We would have to inform Axon in writing by September 1, 2027, that we are opting out.

The current contract for Axon is $121,180.14 a year (through 2029) divided between both Newton and Walton Counties ($60,590.07 per county). The increase would bring the contract, beginning December 2027, to a total of $166,128.42 a year through 2030 ($83,064.21 per county). This is an increase to each county annually of $22,474.14 if we choose to continue with the contract. While this is an increase to the budget, it is a product that could greatly improve the work efficiency of some of my most expensive employees and, ultimately, reduce future potential personnel costs.

If we do not sign up for Axon Premier Plus at this time, please be aware that the cost beginning January 1, 2027, will double. Thus, in a year's time, the requests would be an increase of over $44,000 a year rather than $22,474.14. Therefore, this contract with the one-year trial period and opt-out provision appears to be a very reasonable offer from Axon.

Again, in transparency, I have not received the official/revised contract from Axon after our most recent meeting. I have included the rough draft version and the opt-out language contemplated as included in the contract from my email correspondence. Upon receiving the revised contract I will promptly forward it.

I am requesting to add my request for the Commission to sign the new contract with Axon contemplated in this memo to the November 10th BOC meeting agenda. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Amber Dally
District Attorney
Alcovy Judicial Circuit