

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

Meeting Date: December 21, 2023

Staff Contact: Curtis Mansell, Police Chief

Agenda Item: Consider purchase of Axon Fleet 3 Basic in-car cameras

Background/Description of Item

The Westwood Police Department's current BodyCam's (Model BC100) were purchased in 2015. This model has been discontinued and there is no longer support for repairs/maintenance and failures are already being experienced. The current Watchguard in-car cameras were purchased in 2014 and this model will no longer be supported for repairs/maintenance. Currently the video management (storage, filing & deletion) of both car and body cameras is a manual process. Issues associated with officers having to manually activate body cameras can be perceived negatively (e.g. must have something to hide, didn't turn it on). In the system being recommended here, if the vehicle's emergency lights are on, the body camera and vehicle camera turn on automatically. Additionally, officer manpower is spent manually uploading, categorizing and producing court evidence. The new system will automate all these processes.

Staff Comments/Recommendation

Following research and planning for this purchase over the past several years, staff proposes a new integrated Axon Enterprises vehicle and body cam system. This system includes automated download and a library system for storage and is compatible with our current Records Management System: NICHE. Video will be electronically categorized and logged by case/event and video can be attached to reports for submission electronically to the City Prosecutor allowing for full discovery.

The proposed agreement provides for:

- four (4) in-car systems, including all hardware and mounting;
- ten (10) body worn cameras with chest mounting clips;
- new user training;
- subscription and cloud evidence storage service; and
- five (5) year no fault warranty which includes free body camera replacement at 30 months and 60 months.

Staff recommends the City Council approve the purchase and authorize the City Administrator to sign the associated contracts.

Budget Impact

\$20,000 is budgeted in fiscal year 2024 in the Equipment Reserve Fund for this planned purchase within the Equipment Replacement Fund. As discussed during the budget work sessions this past summer in preparing the 2024 City budget, ongoing subscription payments (beginning in 2025) will be included in the Police Department's General Fund operating budget. The Year 1 (2024) payment is \$16,418.02, with four subsequent yearly payments of \$16,418.02 (in-car cameras in the annual amount of \$6,947.52 plus body cameras in the annual amount of \$9,470.50).

The city attorney has reviewed the contract and notes that the length of the term should be pointed out; it is five (5) years with an automatic renewal for another five (5) years. As such, he notes that the City is potentially

committing to Axon for ten (10) years and that Axon has the ability to increase the fees annually by 3% per year during the renewal term. He notes, however, that there is non-appropriation language in the Agreement which would allow the City to cancel the contract if the City Council declines to approve budgetary authority for this expenditure during any budget year.

By approving this 2024 expenditure in 2023, Axon has discounted the total five (5) year cost by \$10,000, which savings are prorated over the initial five-year term.

Suggested Motion

I move to authorize the City Administrator to execute the quote from Axon Enterprise, Inc. for in-car cameras and body cameras for the Police Department as presented.