



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 23, 2019

TO: Christine Daniel, City Manager

FROM: Jennifer Tejada, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: **Resolution Of The City Council Of The City of Emeryville Authorizing The City Manager To Execute A Five Year Agreement With Axon For the Supply, Training, and Maintenance Of A Body Worn Camera System And Cloud Storage Solution, In An Amount Not To Exceed \$200,000**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council of the City of Emeryville adopt the attached resolution approving the Police Department's replacement of the body worn camera (BWC) video system. The replacement of the BWC system will be partially funded by a grant received from the United States, Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), for \$67,500. The balance of the five-year project will be funded from the Police Department budget.

BACKGROUND

There is a compelling need for a new dynamic BWC system that includes a digital media evidence storage system. The current BWC system has been in place since 2015 and is at the end of its effective usefulness. The failure rate of the current hardware is increasing rapidly, and replacement parts are not readily available as the product has been eliminated by the vendor. With significant improvements to the efficiency and security of cloud-based digital evidence storage systems, the Police Department desires to update its system to take advantage of the new technology.

In September 2018, the Police Department was notified that the BJA grant was awarded for the BWC program, in the amount of \$67,500. In April 2019, the Police Department released a competitive BWC Request for Proposals ("RFP") to the public. The RFP required vendors to provide both a body camera hardware system as well as a software system to securely store the digital media evidence. The RFP period closed on May 6, 2019, and the Department received four proposals from vendors who met the minimum RFP requirements. The staff thoroughly reviewed the four proposals and reached out to several of the professional references listed in each of the proposals. The proposals were rated on numerous factors including body camera hardware, digital media evidence storage system, security of data, officer ergonomics, training requirements, compatibility with other systems and agencies, and ease of use.

Police Department staff collaborated with Information Technology staff throughout the process and determined the proposal from Axon to be the best fit for the City. The

proposal offered by Axon was complete and professional, and their customer support has a superior reputation with agencies polled.

The digital media evidence storage platform offered by Axon meets or exceeds all the needs of the department. The system, Evidence.com, offers a cloud-based digital media storage platform that meets all Department of Justice (“DOJ”) mandated security requirements. Evidence.com has a user-friendly platform and an intuitive user dashboard. The system is robust without appearing overwhelming to the end user. As the number of BWC recordings continues to increase on an annual basis, the need for a system that excels in the storage of such evidence is paramount. New laws such as California Assembly Bill (AB) 748, regarding peace officers’ video and audio recordings disclosure, are expected to increase the need for efficient cataloging and recall of video evidence. Also, the need for video redaction capabilities became mandatory on July 1, 2019, as AB 748 required the release of all BWC video that captured law enforcement critical incidents.

The Department will be purchasing a BWC for each sworn law enforcement staff member, as well as all professional staff who have enforcement responsibilities as part of their regular duties. The Department anticipates requiring 46 BWC systems to meet this expectation but wants to allow for the addition of future cameras and/or accessories to be purchased from Axon.

The project goal is to adopt an all-inclusive BWC system that will serve the Department as well as the community. The Department anticipates the Axon system will meet its needs beyond the five-year agreement proposed. While advancements in technology continue to evolve staff believes that Axon will be at the leading edge of those advancements, both in the hardware and software fields. This will allow the Department to invest in a product that will serve its needs for the foreseeable future.

DISCUSSION

Staff conducted a comprehensive assessment of the equipment and services necessary to implement an innovative BWC program. Primary considerations included the number of cameras needed, camera docking stations, the deployment schedule, the digital media evidence storage requirements, implementation services, and training. All the equipment and services identified in the needs assessment have been incorporated into the recommended agreement with Axon Enterprises Inc. The term of the agreement is for five years at a cost of \$200,000. This includes a full body worn camera upgrade after the first thirty months of the contract. Staff is recommending 5% funding over the quoted amount (\$190,339.12) for this project in anticipation of needing funds for additional cloud storage should the City’s digital media retention requirements change over the course of the agreement.

Staff conducted market research on BWC and digital media storage systems and found Axon Enterprises Inc. to have a superior product. EPD officers tested and evaluated the Axon Body Camera 2 product. Officer reviews of the Axon product evaluated full shift battery life, camera field of view assessment, cloud storage, data security, and the

digital media evidence management system. The officers and professional staff found the Axon Body Camera 2 hardware and the Evidence.com digital media storage system to meet the needs of the Department.

Axon offered a simple durable BWC system with multiple uniform mounting options. The high definition video performs well during darkness and low-light environments. The Axon docking station allows users to simply plug in the BWC to both securely download videos as well as charge the BWC unit.

The Evidence.com cloud-based digital media storage system allows for secure viewing, case management, automated retention, secure video sharing, and simple system administrative oversight. The Evidence.com system is compliant with the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Information Service (CJIS) policy requirements.

The Axon product was evaluated by Department administration staff who found the system to meet the needs of the administration staff. The secure records retention and ability to review digital media evidence was simple and initiative.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact of this project is anticipated to be \$200,000. The Department received a DOJ BJA grant for the BWC program for \$67,500, which will be applied to the cost of the five-year program. The current amount allocated to this project is approximately \$120,000 which include funds from the identified BJA grant and previously received asset forfeiture funds. These funds will cover years 1 through 3 of this agreement. The remaining balance of approximately \$80,000 for years 4 and 5 will be funded through a mid-year budget cycle adjustment reallocating existing JAG grant funds.

STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

The communication the Police Department has had with the public consisted of outreach with numerous Axon system users and BWC subject matter experts. Staff reached out to the Alameda County District Attorney's office, the Alameda County Public Defender's Office, most law enforcement agencies in Alameda County, the grant administrators and advisors, and some community advocates. There was no conflicting feedback on the proposal for the Axon BWC system.

CONCLUSION

The Emeryville Police Department has tested the Axon BWC system and the Axon digital media evidence storage system and found it to be desirable. The Police Department also conducted extensive outreach to allied Alameda County Law Enforcement agencies and received positive feedback on the system. Staff recommends the City Council approve the five year agreement with Axon for BWC and digital media storage system.

PREPARED BY: Oliver Collins, Emeryville Police Department Captain, via Chief Tejada

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**



Christine Daniel, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft Resolution
- Axon Master Services and Purchasing Agreement
- Axon Quote