

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Title: Approval of Updated Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc for provision of Public Safety Body Cameras, Data Storage, Software, Tasers, Taser Supplies and related items in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 over a five-year period.

Meeting Date: February 1, 2023

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RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of Updated Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc for provision of Public Safety Body Cameras, Data Storage, Software, Tasers, Taser Supplies and related items in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 over a five year period pending final legal review.

BACKGROUND:

Staff is recommending the approval of an updated agreement with Axon Enterprise to address Police Body Camera needs and to implement a formal Taser management program. Our current contract with Axon is outdated and is a mixture of add-ons and upgrades done over the past several years, addressing only Body Cameras. The new agreement has a five-year cost of \$147,592.80 or \$29,185.92 per year (Pricing Schedule Attached). Our current contract expires next year, and we'll be in the same position of negotiating a new agreement with anticipated increased costs for both the Body Camera and Taser management, support, equipment, and related services.

ANALYSIS:

The current contract is designed to primarily support the use of body camaras. The Evidance.com storage site has limited data capacity under the agreement, and we are currently over our allotted data limit. We may incur additional expenses if we continue under the current contract for storage. Currently we place the footage onto Record Information Management System (RIMS) if it's not too big, otherwise we place on a USB drive and put the drive into evidence with the footage to recue storage use and as means to provide data to the District Attorney's Office (DA). This is cumbersome and there is the potential for the USB drive to be corrupted. The proposed agreement will support 15 body camaras (current 13 plus 2 additional) and will provide an unlimited data storage plan for Axon body camara footage and the Axon Capture App. The App allows officers to take evidence photos and video with no data limit. The material is securely stored on Evidence.com and does not require the transfer of data to a USB Drive and does not require the use of RIMS. The program also includes Axon Community Request. This allows an officer to email a link to a witness who can upload a video or photos. This information, once reviewed by officers can be placed on Evidence.com. The evidence may then be shared directly with the DA through a secure email link to be downloaded, instead of having to copy it onto another storage device and delivered to the DA.

The Department's Taser program needs an overhaul. The current older X2 Tasers are no longer under warranty and are not on a replacement program. We currently do not carry adequate Tasers to equip each officer. It is also difficult to acquire training cartridges and we currently have one

Taser Training Officer. The new contract sets forth better Taser management program. This includes providing 15 newer Taser 7's, and training and live cartridges, holsters, and features to automatically turn on body camaras when a duty weapon or taser is deployed. Axon provides a training voucher to send an Officer to a train the trainer Taser school that allows us to manage training of current and new officers in house. Axon also provides a second training voucher after two years for a refresher course. The program will bring our Taser management up to date and in line with requirements for the use of less than lethal tactics.

OPTIONS ANALYSIS

Option 1: Approve the proposed updated agreement with Axon for public safety body camera and Taser management, support, equipment, and related services. The proposed five-year agreement will require additional financial resources as outlined below. The new program will bring the Police Department's programs up to date and in line with requirements for using less than lethal force and improve overall use of body camaras.

Option 2: Continue for FY23-24 under the current Axon agreement, The agreement provides less then desired support services for Body Camaras and no support for the use of Tasers. A new program would still need to be pursued for FY24-25 to address current needs. Additional costs may be incurred for data storage and the Department will need to look at options keep current Tasers operational.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The new agreement provides significant improvements to the overall management and service support for managing body camara evidence, adds ability for people to provide supplemental video evidence, and ongoing support for the equipment. The Taser management, services, training, and supplies and upgraded Tasers brings the Department program in line with expectations and requirements for less than lethal force. The current contract expires in 2024. The current cost is \$8,652.48 per year. We have a small buy out for the exiting 13 camaras of \$1,663.20. The current program is not offered by Axon going forward and we will be looking at cost escalation over the coming year if the agreement is put on hold for another year. We have worked with Axon to reduce their base price, by \$12,696.29 per year, if we proceed with the new contract at this time. This savings is reflected in the proposed five-year cost of \$147,592.80 or \$29,185.92 per year. This is a significant increase in costs due to the enhanced program and the addition of the Taser management and services represents a substantial benefit to the Police Department.