



Washington Police Department

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TO: Public Safety Committee
FROM: Chief Michael D. McCoy and MSgt. Jeff Stevens
RE: Replacement of Department's Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs)
DATE: November 16, 2017

Aldermen,

Washington Police began carrying Taser CEWs about 2008. The Tasers are an important tool as a non-lethal use of force option both because they can quickly and safely bring a fighting subject under control with minimal injury to the subject or officers and because the availability of the option is likely to decrease the potential for resistance. The Department currently has a Taser CEW for each officer, a distribution that has proven effective in keeping CEWs available and in service. Many of our CEWs are unserviceable and nearly all are beyond their normal expected service life.

Starting in 2015, the Department began to replace Taser X26 Tasers with the newer X26P model. We now have six X26Ps in service. The Department budgeted \$11,000 this year toward CEW replacement in order to complete replacement of X26 Tasers over 3 years, to reach a total of 32 CEWs.

Replacement of 10 Taser CEWs this year through purchase will cost \$11,075.10. The Department estimate for maintenance of those CEWs over 5 years is \$2,453, excluding repairs. [Estimate for maintenance costs over 5 years is a failure rate of 10% for holsters, 1 battery per device, 1 duty cartridge per 4 devices, and 10 training cartridges per device.] A 5-year warranty for the CEWs is \$287.75 each, or \$2,877.50.

Extrapolating the pre-warranty/repair cost to replacement of 26 CEWs yields a 5-year cost of \$35,173.06 (\$13,528.10 x 2.6).

Axon also offers a 5-year contract for purchase, warranty, and maintenance supplies for the X26P. The cost for 26 CEWs, bringing us to 32 total X26P CEWs, is \$31,889.96. The first-year cost for the 5-year agreement, providing the City destroys 26 "trade in" X26 CEWs, is \$4,264.00, with subsequent annual payments of \$6,864.00. From the start of the 5-year contract, the City will own the CEWs.

Although the Department explored the possibility of using an alternative CEW, the one current Taser competitor in the law enforcement market, PhaZZer, is under an injunction preventing the sale of its product. While there is a substantial chance PhaZZer can prevail in its litigation with Axon (as it has previously), the company cannot currently provide the product and may not be able to provide it in the near future. There is also the chance that PhaZZer will never again be able to sell and support the product. As such, we ask the Committee and ultimately the City Council to consider Axon as the sole source of CEWs for law enforcement.