



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: April 17, 2023

Prepared By: Chief McCoy and Deputy Chief Stevens

Agenda Item: Replacement of In-Car Cameras, Bundling of Body Cameras and Tasers

Explanation: The FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget includes funds for scheduled replacement of in-car video systems. The identified funds are a result of capital accumulation over several budget years, essentially “saving” for replacement of a necessary system with an identified useful life. We have the same “saving” system in place for Tasers and expect to use the same system for replacement of body cameras once we have those. We have been evaluating these various video systems over the past year, including trial use of some body camera systems. We expected to be able to bundle in-car cameras with body cameras for both efficiency and relative savings.

We have identified a vendor, Axon, for all systems. We also expect that Axon will have a significant place in future county-wide records systems, as both Pekin and Tazewell County Sheriff’s Office have records contracts with Axon that we expect will result in stress on current county-wide agreements. As was the case with Tasers, Axon structures sales with 5-year payments and includes necessary data storage, software and hardware maintenance. Axon is a Sourcewell vendor.

Our goal was to package all camera systems. Axon’s best pricing, however, comes with packaging its body camera system with Tasers. While our Tasers are due for replacement, we opted before we received this pricing to try to extend their life 1 year. Commitment to a package of all three provides the best pricing.

Our current in-car camera system is frequently down and currently requires manual upload of video, which is not consistent with the design of the system. Axon believes that they cannot replace our current in-car cameras in a short time frame. Axon can, however, provide body cameras quickly. The body cameras will provide more useful video than current in-car cameras and give important backup to an unreliable in-car system. Importantly, this body camera package obviates the need for a new server and hardware backup for both in-car and body cameras and provides digital storage for other evidence needs. That storage comes with a distribution feature and redaction suite, simplifying distribution of records for both public access and court. It is compatible with Axon records products. The storage features are more efficient than our current processes.

Fiscal Impact: At the time of this writing, we do not have an absolute final cost for a bundle of cameras systems and Tasers. Our working number is \$670,000, or \$134,000 annually for five years. Our (proposed) budget for in-car camera replacement is \$224,000 for FY 2023-24. In addition, the proposed budget contains funding that will accumulate in FY 23-24 to approximately \$38,000 specifically for Taser replacement, which we intended to put off until FY 24-25 but would include in the coming FY, well within the proposed budget amounts. We are not requesting any amendment to the proposed budget. We are seeking grant funds to offset a portion of this purchase.

Action Requested: Council approval for purchase of the complete camera system and Taser package, not to exceed \$670,000 paid over 5 years.