



NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: December 10, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Shannan Moon, Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the purchase of Body Worn Cameras (BWC), software licenses and related equipment as capital assets for the Sheriff's Office at a total cost of \$2,089,157.73 for a 60-month term (March 2025 through February 2030) with Axon Enterprise, Inc. and authorizing a budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2024/25 to fund the Year 1 installment payment for the BWC system (4/5ths affirmative vote required)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the resolution.

FUNDING: Funding for the Axon Body Worn Camera purchase of \$2,089,157.73 will come from the Public Safety Reserve assignment in the General Fund. The Year 1 installment payment of \$547,801.53 due in March of 2025 is not included in the Sheriff's budget and therefore, a budget amendment is required and is included in the attached resolution.

BACKGROUND:

In July 2021, leveraging federal grant funds, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors authorized the purchase of the first implementation of Body Worn Cameras (BWC) for use by Sheriff's Office patrol deputies and animal control officers (Res 21-338). This first purchase was limited to BWC's only and did not include the replacement of the existing In-Car cameras or the associated on-premises digital storage. Nearly four and a half years later, our existing camera systems are beyond their life expectancy, out of manufacturer warranty, and several In-Car cameras have failed with no available replacement parts. At present, there is also no back-up to the on-premises video and audio evidence storage being collected with the current camera systems, which puts years of digital evidence at risk of being lost if there were to be a catastrophic hardware failure.

Earlier this year, the Sheriff's Office began researching options for replacing our BWC's and In-Car cameras. Currently, the Sheriff's Office is the only local law enforcement agency not using the Axon brand camera systems, along with their evidence management system known as Evidence.com. Evidence.com, a cloud-based video and audio repository with multiple redundant

storage facilities, allows agencies to seamlessly and quickly share their digital evidence with not only allied agencies who also utilize Axon, but with the Nevada County District Attorney's Office who have been using Evidence.com for many years now. Sharing of evidence is done effortlessly in Evidence.com by simply changing permission levels for users either internal to the agency, or external and who are Axon customers. Members of the public can also receive links to view evidence and if necessary, can even submit their own digital evidence directly to Evidence.com for review by law enforcement. Electronic audit logs are continuously being created to memorialize chains of evidence and custody. It is believed that at least half of one Sheriff's Office Evidence Technician's time is currently spent transferring digital evidence from our current camera system to the District Attorney's Office for case reviews. The time spent on these tedious processes is taking away from other duties necessary for maintaining and running an evidence facility and we feel strongly the benefits of Axon's Evidence.com will drastically improve efficiency in this area.

In order to procure these BWC, the Sheriff's Office collaborated with the Purchasing Department and determined the best approach for sourcing these items is by leveraging a competitively solicited and awarded Cooperative agreement from Sourcewell (Contract No. 101223-AXN) which includes a substantial cost reduction for these items. The Nevada County Purchasing Policy Section 4.5 (B) allows for purchases made from other public agencies competitive solicitations, or by use of Joint Powers Agreements, Cooperative Purchasing programs, Pooling Agreements, and other recognized types of agreements used by government agencies to combine agency requirements for purchases in order to obtain volume discounts.

Axon's 5-year proposal includes the replacement of BWC's, In-Car cameras, unlimited cloud storage and use of Evidence.com. Because of the benefits we've realized using BWC's over the past few years, the Sheriff's Office has elected to increase our BWC deployments to include our Correctional Staff.

The replacement of the Sheriff's Office Body Worn & Fleet In-Car Camera system and capital assets is necessary for maintaining the public's trust and for continued transparency and accountability by providing an objective record of law enforcement-civilian interactions. Throughout the law enforcement profession, Body Worn and In-Car-Camera systems have been shown to reduce complaints against officers, deter excessive use of force, and improve evidence collection for investigations and court cases, ultimately enhancing safety for both deputies and the public at large.

Purchasing Policy Section 7.1 (C) requires Board approval for all purchases of goods/commodities with a total aggregate amount exceeding \$250,000 therefore, it is requested the Board approve the purchase of the Axon Body Worn and Fleet In-Car Camera system at a total estimated cost of \$2,089,157.73 for a 60-month term (Year 1 installment cost of \$547,801.53) and accept same as a capital asset.

Initiated by: Robert Jakobs
Approved by: Shannan Moon