
**MEMORANDUM
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

TO: Randy Tweet, City Manager

SUBJECT: Body Camera Proposal

NUMBER: 16-056

DATE: 12/13/16

Starting in the Fall of 2015, representatives from various Illinois Quad Cities Police Departments and the Rock Island County State's Attorney's Office met on a monthly basis to research best practices for body-worn cameras (BWC). The meetings addressed issues such as written policies, emerging legislation, financial costs, training requirements, and privacy concerns. The committee also received product demonstrations from major vendors to determine hardware and software capabilities along with associated costs.

Over the course of several months, the committee met with three Body Worn Camera vendors and viewed product information from a fourth:

- Taser
- Panasonic
- Watchguard
- GoPro

From those meetings, the Rock Island Police Department selected two of the four vendors for further evaluation by the major staff of the Police Department. Taser International was unanimously recommended by staff for consideration based upon function, operational needs, and manageability. Other benefits considered included:

- Unlimited Cloud video storage which eliminates the need to buy servers for storage on a yearly basis
- Replacement plan which includes camera upgrades at 2.5 years & 5 years, as well as docking station upgrades at 2.5 years & 5 years.
- Camera warranty for entire length of contract
- "Officer Safety Plan" which includes One Taser Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) for every camera purchased, including holster, battery, and extended warranty
- Axon Flex cameras for use by members of Emergency Response Team (ERT)
- Ability for State's Attorney's Office / Public Defenders Office to review video via an e-mail link minimizing the need of providing copies of video, saving both time and costs of storage devices
- Built in redaction capabilities

It should be noted that as part of the overall evaluation, the department conducted a trial run of Taser's Axon 2 BWC on all three patrol shifts. The cameras met expectations, including in low-light conditions, with the video being easily retrievable through Taser's video storage program, Evidence.com.

Taser's "Officer Safety Plan", includes the issuance of individual CEW's for every patrol officer. Taser is the only manufacturer of Taser CEW's, which can only be purchased through Taser International, a sole source provider. The Police Department currently deploys a limited number of Taser CEW's in the field as part of our use of force continuum and has several certified Taser Instructors. This component of the overall project is extremely important / beneficial as it provides every officer with another less than lethal force option.

Included in the proposal from Taser are 25 Flex 2 cameras, which will be utilized by the Emergency Response Team for mounting on new tactical helmets. Taser does not manufacture tactical helmets; therefore these helmets will be purchased from a third party vendor. The Police Department is estimating the cost for 25 tactical helmets at approximately \$18,500, based upon a previous quote from a third party vendor. The cost of specialized tactical helmets that would support the mounting of the Flex cameras was included as part of the overall project.

Recommendation:

The Police Department recommends that the council approve the proposal from Taser in the amount of \$505,750.00 and approve the purchase of tactical helmets in an amount not to exceed \$18,500.00 for a total project cost to be \$524,250.00 and authorize the City Manager to sign the proposal along with associated contract documents.

Vendor: Taser International
Payment Amount: \$505,750.00
Fund: 301
Department: 412
Cost Center: 206
Object Code: 52401
Project: 6283

Vendor: TBD (Tactical Helmets)
Payment Amount: \$18,500.00
Fund: 301
Department: 412
Cost Center: 206
Object Code: 52401
Project: 6283

SUBMITTED BY: Jeffrey R. VenHuizen *JRV*
Chief of Police

APPROVED: Randall Tweet
Interim City Manager