

KENSINGTON POLICE PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 12, 2019

ITEM 8b

KPPCSD: PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR BODY-WORN CAMERAS – KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

BACKGROUND

The use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) has grown substantially throughout the law enforcement profession and is considered a best practice for the industry. Each of our surrounding allied agencies use BWCs, to include the Berkeley, Albany and El Cerrito Police Departments. Studies and anecdotal evidence show that BWCs provide high-quality evidence for criminal cases and frequently mitigate citizen complaints. BWCs that record officer interactions with the public have been widely regarded as tools that promote officer accountability, increased transparency and public trust. In addition, the costs for maintaining a BWC system have decreased significantly as the technology has developed. The Kensington Police Officers Association is supportive of the use of BWCs.

DISCUSSION

In keeping with best practice standards, the following criteria was considered in selecting a BWC system:

- The camera must be capable of pre-record, the recording of video prior to the activation of the device.
- The camera must be easy to manipulate to avoid missed recordings.
- The manufacturer must offer secure, tamper-proof data storage.
- The BWC videos must be easily downloaded and synced with the data storage.
- The quality of the video and audio must be suitable for presentation in court.

The Axon Body Two from Axon Enterprises, Inc. meets and exceeds these expectations by providing the following qualities:

- Durable design.
- Capable of pre-recording video prior to activation of the recording.
- Simple design with a large activation button that is easily manipulated to turn the recording on.
- 12-hour battery life.
- Equipped with signal technology that will automatically turn the camera on when the emergency lights are activated in the patrol car.
- Downloading occurs automatically when the device is placed on the charging dock.
- Data is stored securely on evidence.com, a secure platform requiring no local IT support and is Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) compliant.
- Axon is a major manufacturer of BWCs with police agencies throughout the world using their products.

The key terms of the purchase agreement with Axon are the following:

- Through a promotional discount, the BWCs are provided at no cost to the District – a savings of \$3493.00
- Axon provides an annual maintenance plan that includes the cost of ongoing data storage, maintenance, and replacement for the BWCs. The cost is spread over a five-year period as follows:
 - Year one: \$8,234
 - Year two: \$4,902
 - Year three: \$4,902
 - Year four: \$4,902

 - Total: \$27,842

The purchase agreement with Axon includes:

- Seven (7) Axon Body Two Body Worn Cameras (BWCs)
- One (1) docking station for recharging and data uploading
- Three (3) in-car signal units to activate BWCs when patrol emergency lights turn on
- Secure off-site (cloud based) video data storage
- Replacement of BWCs & charging station at 30 and 60 month intervals
- A full warranty on the BWCs & two year warranty on the charging station

The Axon system also includes the use of their website, “evidence.com,” which is an industry standard and CJIS compliant system for storing secure data. Evidence.com also allows for secure digital evidence transmittal. The Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office is planning to adopt evidence.com in 2020 to receive digital evidence for the prosecution of cases. This advancement in technology will save future staff time as we are currently required to hand deliver digital evidence to the District Attorney’s Office in Martinez.

RECOMMENDATION

Take public comment and decide by roll call vote if the Board wishes to approve the purchase agreement as presented.

If the Board approves, the motion should authorize the Interim Police Chief to execute the purchase agreement with Axon subject to the review and approval of the General Counsel.

ATTACHMENTS:

Purchase agreement with Axon Enterprises, Inc.

SUBMITTED BY: Steve Simpkins, Interim Chief of Police