



## STAFF REPORT

### To the Honorable Mayor and City Council From the City Manager

**DATE:** November 23, 2020

#### **SUBJECT**

Agreement to purchase equipment and receive services from AXON Enterprise Inc. to equip individual Redwood City Police Department officers with body-worn cameras

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

By motion, approve and authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement to purchase 100 body-worn cameras and associated data transfer charging station hardware and five years of software licensing and video evidence cloud storage services from AXON Enterprises, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$612,605.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLE**

Excellence in Government Operations

#### **BACKGROUND**

On May 24, 2016, the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury published a report entitled “Body Cameras – The Reel Truth” (Attachment A). The report detailed utilization of body-worn camera technology by law enforcement agencies in San Mateo County and included brand comparisons and anticipated deployment costs to support their determination that body-worn camera deployment was reasonably obtainable. The Grand Jury recommended that agencies not already deploying body-worn cameras develop an implementation plan for body-worn cameras by November 30, 2016, and adopt a body-worn camera program as soon as possible, but, in any case, no later than October 31, 2017. On November 21, 2016, the City Council approved a response to the Grand Jury recommendations (Attachment B). The response included agreement to develop an appropriate body-worn camera implementation plan and to make the plan public by November 30, 2016. However, the City could not commit to the October 31, 2017 timeline to adopt body worn cameras as recommended by the Grand Jury because funding needed to be secured, including the opportunity to explore grant funding availability. The Police Department’s staff report

provided a six-year body-worn camera plan that detailed projected costs and a timetable for adoption, meeting the requirement to make available to the public a body-worn camera implementation plan.

On October 1, 2018, the Department received federal grant funding of \$150,146 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to implement a body-worn camera program by September 2021. In addition to federal grant funding, the FY 2020-21 budget included \$384,974 to implement a body-worn camera program. On August 13, 2020, the Department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) (Attachment C) for a body-worn camera program and received four competitive responses by the deadline of September 15, 2020.

To meet requirements associated with federal funding for a body-worn camera system, the Police Department had to develop body-worn camera deployment policies that met strict guidelines benchmarked against best-practice standards defined by the Department of Justice (DOJ) division responsible for developing national standards for U.S. law enforcement. The Police Department's proposed policies exceeded the federal standards and included State-mandated requirements for agencies collecting and maintaining body-worn camera digital evidence. Having received approval from the DOJ, the policies now are being reviewed by the City employee bargaining units that represent employees required to use the body-worn camera system in their daily duties.

Once that review is complete, the Body-worn Camera (BWC) policies will be posted on the Department's website, as with other policies and procedures governing the Department's operations. In light of community interest in police operations, the Department will host a community meeting to present the policies and receive public feedback. Staff expects that the proposed new Police Advisory Committee also would provide input on the use of this new technology.

## ANALYSIS

During the RFP's open response period, seven companies inquired about the proposal, and four companies submitted complete proposals by the designated deadline. One company withdrew from the RFP process because of an inability to meet U.S. law enforcement's secure cloud storage requirements. Two companies withdrew from submitting a proposal because their camera or video software management capabilities did not meet the minimal required RFP specifications.

The competing proposals were subjected to a rigorous benchmark comparison against 45 functional camera specifications and over 29 software and cloud storage requirements for secure data tracking, encryption, and cost-efficient video redaction and reproduction capabilities.

The following proposals were received:

Proposer	Cost
Digital-Ally, Kansas	\$499,025
Watch Guard, Texas	\$548,280
AXON, Arizona	\$586,965
PRO-VISION, Michigan	\$643,015

The following evaluation criteria identified the most competitive proposer, AXON:

Proposer		AXON		WatchGuard		Pro-Vision		Digital-Ally	
Selection Criteria:	Value	Point Avg.	Sub %	Point Avg.	Sub %	Point Avg.	Sub %	Point Avg.	Sub %
Understand Scope of Work	5%	5	0.25	5	0.25	5	0.25	5	0.25
Ability to Meet Department Needs	15%	4	0.6	2	0.3	1	0.15	1	0.15
Capability: Software	25%	63	15.75	48	12	37	9.25	36	9
Capability: Camera	25%	135	33.75	119	29.6	113	28	79	19.75
Cost	30%	10	3	15	4.5	5	1.5	20	6
<b>Total Score</b>	100%		<b>53.35</b>		<b>46.65</b>		<b>39.2</b>		<b>35.15</b>

Besides camera and software benchmark requirements, the ability to electronically file-share body-worn camera video/audio evidence with the San Mateo County District Attorney was a crucial consideration in the selection process. Only AXON demonstrated a current ability to share body-worn camera evidence through a licensed file-share transfer. All other competing companies required their body-worn camera video/audio evidence transferred through the labor-intensive process of copying video/audio onto a CD and hand-delivery to the District Attorney’s Office.

After a thorough review by a multi-disciplinary team of representation from members of the Police Department Command Staff, Police Sergeants Association (PSA), Police Officers Association (POA), Property and Evidence Supervisor, and Police Information Technology staff, the Department found AXON to have the most advancements in camera technology, video management software compatibility, replacement warranty, and most advantageous to meet the Department’s needs. Staff recommends awarding the contract to provide the Redwood City Police Department with a body-worn camera solution to AXON Enterprises Inc.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The contract will be funded through existing operating funds as well as a Department of Justice Reimbursement Grant:

- \$384,974 designated in the Police Department FY 2020-21 Operating Budget
- \$ 77,484 through salary savings of vacant positions from the Police Department FY 2020-21 Operating Budget (in addition to vacancies held as part of the FY 2020-21 Revised Budget)
- \$150,145 will be funded from a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Reimbursement Grant. The Police Department’s budget will be adjusted through a year-end budget amendment to reflect this amount.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

This activity is not a project under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as defined in CEQA Guidelines, section 15378, because it has no potential for resulting in either a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The City Council may elect not to award the contract to AXON Enterprises Inc. and direct staff to conduct a new competitive bid process.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – May, 2016, Civil Grand Jury Report, “Body Cameras – The Reel Truth”

Attachment B – November 21, 2016 Police Department Staff Report to Civil Grand Jury Report

Attachment C – August 13, 2020 RFP issued for body-worn cameras

Attachment D – Agreement with Axon

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## **APPROVED BY:**

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