

Donald J. Lee, Jr.
Chief of Police



Key West
POLICE DEPARTMENT

TO: Mr. Jim Scholl, City Manager
FROM: Donald J. Lee Jr., Chief of Police
DATE: May 23, 2018
RE: Authorizes the purchase of 100 AXON Body worn Cameras.

Action Statement:

This resolution authorizes the purchase of 100 AXON Body II body worn cameras, docks, and related equipment at a cost of \$54,408.00 (\$544.08 ea.) from Axon, Inc. (Formally TASER International). This purchase is made pursuant to City Ordinance Section 2-797(3). The Key West Police Department will be utilizing nationalipa.org competitively solicited and publicly awarded contract #151089 with the City of Tucson, AZ (see attached).

In conjunction with this purchase, the City Manager shall be granted authority to enter into an agreement for licensing, storage, and related software with Axon, Inc, for a period of five-years upon review and approval by the City Attorney.

Background:

The Key West Police Department began a body worn camera program for officers in 2015. The original body worn cameras were purchased by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and given to the department at no cost. They were compatible and worked in conjunction with the in-car video equipment currently in use by the department (COBAN). This version/model of body camera is no longer available or supported by the manufacturer and have become obsolete.

Purpose and Justification:

Body worn cameras have been successful in documenting evidence while providing accurate, detailed, and verifiable video and audio of officer's interactions during their daily duties. This program has been very well received by both the public and the officers. As with most electronics, body worn cameras have been rapidly evolving and improving. The original body worn cameras purchased by MCSO and provided to the Key West Police Department had a one-year warranty. The manufacturer



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upgraded to a newer version shortly after that one-year warranty expired. Additionally, the manufacturer was purchased by another company and the new company decided not to support the software that our body worn cameras use (i.e. KWPD could not replace our body worn cameras with the new model). As our current body worn cameras stop working or break, a decision must be made to upgrade and purchase new body worn cameras that work with our current software infrastructure, find a new vendor, or discontinue the body worn camera program.

As a result, the Key West Police Department has conducted field trials of body worn cameras from various vendors including our current vendor and AXON. The AXON body camera was selected as the department's long-term replacement to our current cameras based on several factors.

First, we have contacted the current vendor and they have sent us several of their new cameras to test. Around half of the first cameras that were delivered had issues with the hardware and had to be replaced. Second, there have been software issues with the storage and retention of the current data and videos have been lost. Third, the current vendor does not provide editing software for the videos. An outside vendor must be located and used for editing and providing videos for public records requests. Finally, our current vendors' customer service is below our expectations and previous experience with other IT vendors.

The AXON body camera system is compatible with our Taser cameras. A 5-year contract with Axon includes extended warranties and eliminates the potential of the cameras becoming obsolete for the duration of the contract. The agreement includes software specifically designed to assist with public records requests. There are also additional features that will assist our property and evidence personnel.

Advantages and Disadvantages:

Through our field testing, the Key West Police Department has found AXON body cameras (formerly Taser) to be preferred by our officers. It has complete compatibility with our audio/video software platform, has superior features over its competitors, will best serve our needs, and is in the best interest of the city to enter into a contract with them.

Although this is a 5-year contract, AXON is a proven industry leader and will be here to support our needs into the foreseeable future. The AXON hardware and software meet and exceed our expectations. AXON's customer service has been superb. The Department has an established working relationship with AXON through our Taser devices and Taser Assurance program.



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Options:

One option is to enter into a contract with AXON for 5 years to ensure the long-term success and viability of the Departments body worn camera program.

A second option would be to purchase new body worn cameras from Coban, our current vendor. This vendor is not meeting our current needs and expectations.

A third option would be to seek another vendor. No other vendors were located during the testing period that met our levels of quality, customer service, features, or pricing.

The final option is to discontinue the body worn camera program.

Financial Impact:

The first year of the contract will include the purchase of the body cameras, docking stations, and extended warranties. The first-year cost will be \$54,408.80. Each additional year (years 2, 3, 4, & 5) will cost \$27,840.00 each. This \$27,840.00 is comprised of licensing fees, software, and storage of data.

The first-year cost of \$54,408.80 will come from the 17/18 budget. The Police Department will forgo some purchases from account 101-2101-521-6400 for half (\$27,204.40). The other half (\$27,204.40) will be taken from Federal Forfeitures account 172-2113-521-6400.

Recommendation:

The Key West Police Department recommends purchasing and entering the 5-year agreement with AXON for body worn cameras and believes it is in the best interest of the department and the city.



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