

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS FOR THE POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

BACKGROUND:

In January of this year the Police Department provided information to the City Council concerning Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) for police officers. The review included a summary of the Department's review process, the state of the technology, the issues surrounding the use of BWCs, and the process for the development of a department policy on BWCs. By way of review, the cameras will be worn by all sworn personnel and activated during law enforcement contacts. Officers can deactivate the cameras to respect citizen privacy in some circumstances. These issues were presented in greater detail in the January 23, 2018, Staff Report on Body Worn Cameras in the Police Department.

The Department sought and received the City Council's approval to pursue the purchase of body-worn cameras (BWC) for all sworn officers. At the time of the review the Department was evaluating the camera systems of two vendors. The Department has since selected WatchGuard Video and its Vista XLT camera system as its preferred vendor and device. WatchGuard specializes in audio and video equipment for law enforcement users.

The BWC review and selection process was accomplished by a committee established in the Police Department for that purpose. The committee, which included patrol officers, records and IT staff, supervisors and police administration, worked for over two years evaluating a variety of BWC products.

The WatchGuard Vista XLT system was chosen for a variety of strengths that include a two-piece camera and recorder system that adapts well to different officer's uniforms; a 13 hour battery life, top in the industry; a recording system that is reliable and that can be easily initiated and managed; a robust and integrated redaction system that is efficient and effective; a process that creates links for video recordings that has the potential to save time and costs as an alternative to creating DVDs of all needed recordings. In addition, WatchGuard provides an integration between BWC and in-car camera systems that other systems do not. Although this purchase is only for BWCs, the department will start a multi-year transition program to WatchGuard in-car camera system that will eventually put all video recording systems on one platform.

WatchGuard operates through direct sales. There are no dealers or other sources of the product and, as a result, WatchGuard is a sole source. WatchGuard does provide pricing through a number of existing contracts. A General Services Administration, a NASPO ValuePoint, and an HGAC-Buy cooperative contracts were reviewed for comparative

pricing. With the assistance of staff from Purchasing, a proposal from WatchGuard based on the best open market pricing was negotiated. The total system price is \$141,907.

The system price includes all elements necessary to purchase, implement and operate a WatchGuard Vista XLT system. The quote includes equipment, system setup, configuration, testing and training. It also includes a 3-year no fault warranty for cameras. The warranty provides that if any of the cameras fail for whatever reason (including battery failure or damage from a dropped device) WatchGuard will replace them for no cost for the three year period. The quote includes a new system server to manage and store video. The server has been sized to handle additional video from in-car cameras as the department makes a transition to those systems.

In general, costs for the WatchGuard system are as follows:

60 Vista XLT cameras	\$ 65,700.00
3-year No Fault Warranty	\$ 39,000.00
Server and storage	\$ 11,475.00
Software licenses (includes 3 years support)	\$ 15,495.00
Additional support equipment	\$ 10,845.00
Installation, training, shipping	<u>\$ 2,865.00</u>
	\$145,380.00
Less discount	<u>\$ 3,473.00</u>
Total	\$141,907.00

WatchGuard estimates there is an 8 to 10 week lead time following a confirmed order until delivery of the equipment. If this purchase is approved the timeline would estimate deployment of BWC in late summer or early fall of 2018. During that time the Department will complete and implement a community outreach program on the deployment of BWC.

Funding for this purchase is available in the current year's budget. The server costs are funded through existing depreciation. City policies require that a sole source purchase in this amount shall be approved by the City Council.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Police Department's request to purchase body-worn cameras from WatchGuard Video for \$141,907 as a sole source purchase.
2. Do not approve the purchase of body-worn cameras.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Both the public and police officers have come to expect the use of body-worn cameras by police officers. In January of this year the City Council approved the concept of BWCs for

our police department. The Department reviewed available options and selected the system best suited to local needs and negotiated a best price. Funding for this purchase has already been approved in the annual budget process.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the purchase of BWCs from WatchGuard Video.