



Department Source: Police

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: March 17, 2025

Re: Appropriation of Funding and Contract with AXON, Inc for the purchase of additional Axon equipment and technology.

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$211,451 from Forfeiture Funds and \$375,291 General Fund Reserves to the Police Budget and authorizing the City Manager to sign a contract with Axon, Inc for the purchase of additional Axon equipment and technology.

Discussion

The Police Department respectfully requests funding for the purchase of upgraded in-car camera technology (Axon Fleet 3), expanded storage capacity (Axon Evidence), and the integration of Axon Signal technology. These enhancements are critical to ensuring officer safety, increasing transparency, and improving the efficiency and stability of evidence collection and retention.

- Axon Evidence:** The Department currently utilizes City owned servers to store large amounts of video from the Watchguard in-car camera system. This storage is based on retention schedules set by Department policy, best practices, and state law. Our current servers are physical servers without backups and are at the end of their expected life. The Department has seen a significant rise in the volume of video data saved on the servers due to evolving legal requirements and operational needs. This increase has caused our server storage space to reach capacity several times in the last year requiring more storage to be allocated. When the storage capacity was reached there was a disruption to new video evidence downloading to the servers. Axon Evidence would allow the Department to transition to a cloud-based storage system for all digital evidence with a greatly increased capacity, as well as the ability to store and manage digital evidence from third-parties. The Department currently uses Axon Evidence to store and manage digital evidence from our Axon Body Worn Cameras as well as still images captured as evidence. This expansion would allow us to manage all of our digital evidence on one system and increase our storage capacity to meet growing needs. This technology also includes Axon Auto-Tagging, which streamlines evidence management by automatically linking digital evidence with Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) incident data. This integration associates evidence files with the correct case numbers, locations, and dispatch information upon upload, eliminating hours of manual tagging work. By creating these automatic connections between evidence and incidents, departments benefit from improved searchability, consistent categorization standards, and a more efficient workflow that eliminates human error in the evidence management process.



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- Axon Fleet 3:** The current camera system (Watchguard) is a standalone system that does not integrate with our Body Worn Cameras. Transitioning to the Axon in-car camera platform would allow for seamless integration between the officer's body worn cameras and in-car cameras. Fleet 3 increases our investigative capability through integrated ALPR technology and utilizes dual-view 4K cameras to provide a clear panoramic view covering three traffic lanes. The interior camera is also more robust, capturing a knee-to-head occupant view with IR for night view.
- Axon Signal Technology:** Implementing Axon Signal will automatically activate in-car and body-worn cameras when officers draw their weapons, activate emergency lights, or exit their vehicles in high-risk situations. This automation reduces the risk of human error, ensures critical incidents are captured, and reinforces accountability. Axon Signal wirelessly alerts the officer's Axon cameras to begin recording the moment an officer draws their firearm via a sensor on the officer's holster. Each time a camera is activated by Signal, an audit report is automatically logged in Axon Evidence.

CPD and Axon representatives held public engagement meetings on March 8th and March 10th, 2025. Three meetings were held as follows:

Saturday, March 8th: 9:30am City Hall

Tuesday, March 10th: 11:30am Molly Thomas-Bowden Neighborhood Policing Center Community Room

Tuesday, March 10th: 5:30pm City Hall

At each meeting CPD staff provided attendees with draft policies and procedures, draft ordinance, and an informational packet from Axon (all of these items can be found on the City's BeHeardCoMo site). Axon representatives went through an informational slideshow and Chief Schlude spoke about how CPD would implement and use the technology, if approved. Attendees asked questions and had the opportunity to leave comments on provided cards. In addition to the in-person meetings a project was posted on the BeHeardCoMo website on March 7th, 2025 and closed on April 1st, 2025. All comments and questions received via BeHeard, as well as any comment cards or other correspondence received by staff will be provided to the City Council prior to the April 7th, 2025 City Council Meeting. The Police Department's portion of the contract is \$633,141.86 for year one, then \$654,776.46 annually thereafter if the contract is renewed. The term of the contract is one year from date of signing, with automatic renewals of 1 year unless either party gives notice of non-renewal at least thirty (30) days prior to the end of the then-current term. The appropriation request also includes the additional cost of \$18,600 for cell service on the devices for the remaining 6 months of FY 2025 (April-September), which is outside of the Axon contract. The cell service cost will be \$37,200 for FY 2026 through end of contract period and will be included in yearly budget moving forward.



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The investment in these technological improvements will enhance public trust, protect officers from unfounded claims, and streamline investigative processes.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$586,742 increase to Patrol Operating Budget, \$211,451 decrease to Federal Forfeitures revenue and \$375,291 decrease to General Fund Reserves.

Long-Term Impact: Annual cost of \$661,977 per year for Police which will be included in the normal budget process each fiscal year.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Should Council agree, staff recommends passage of the ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$211,451 from Forfeiture Funds and \$375,291 from General Fund Reserves to the Police Budget and authorizing the City Manager to sign a contract with Axon, Inc for the purchase of additional Axon Signal, Axon Fleet 3, and upgraded Axon Evidence capabilities.