

# Orland Park Police Body Worn Cameras



# Body Worn Cameras (BWC)

- ▶ BWC have numerous benefits which include increasing transparency, improving citizen behavior along with decreasing use of force complaints.
- ▶ BWC would also provide additional evidence for arrests and court prosecution.
- ▶ BWC can improve officers behavior when interacting with citizens.
- ▶ BWC could also be used for training purposes to determine deficiency that a supervisor or officer may not be aware of.
- ▶ BWC mandated by House Bill 3653

# House Bill 3653

- ▶ Mandates that municipalities and counties with populations between 50,000 and 100,000 implement body worn cameras by January 1, 2024.

# Trailer Bill

## HB 3443

- ▶ Removes the provision that said an officer cannot view his or own video before writing a report, except under certain circumstances that would be rare and are specifically defined.  
Under these certain circumstances, Officers can write supplemental reports after viewing body worn camera recordings.
- ▶ Removes the provision that makes it a felony to violate department policy on body cameras.
- ▶ Improves the language (in our favor) about what would be a felony for violation of state law regard to use of body cameras. Must be intentional, willing, and a clear attempt to obstruct justice. Eliminates a felony offense for inadvertent mistakes or problems with cameras.

# Body Worn Camera (BWC) Vendor Demonstrations

During the first quarter of 2021 Officers conducted a field demonstration of three Body Worn Camera Vendors:

The Panasonic logo, consisting of the word "Panasonic" in a white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue rectangular background.

# Axon (Pros)

- ▶ Device has a large activation button
  - ▶ *Making it extremely easy to activate during high stress critical incidents.*
- ▶ Audible and physical reminders to officers that the camera is recording
  - ▶ *The camera beeps and vibrates while it is recording.*
- ▶ Easy to download the videos from the camera to the server.
- ▶ You are able to prioritize what videos are uploaded first.
- ▶ The camera is able to be charged in the vehicle via usb.
- ▶ Numerous mounting capabilities



# Axon (Pros)

- ▶ Cloud Storage Offsite
- ▶ Evidence.com is easy to operate
  - ▶ Used by Cook County States Attorneys Office to obtain evidence from OPPD
- ▶ You are able to activate a live stream from a specific camera.
- ▶ Axon has proprietary technology which automatically activates the camera when a taser or duty weapon is pulled from the holster.
- ▶ Axon sends out technicians to remove the old cameras and install the new ones.

# Axon (Cons)

- ▶ Camera needs to be charged every shift
- ▶ Playback of video can only be done when the camera is connected to Police Department's network.



# Panasonic (Pros)

- ▶ Video/Audio quality better than Motorola, but not as good as Axon
- ▶ Secure mounting system



# Panasonic (Cons)

- ▶ Power switch located on the rear of the unit.
- ▶ No audio and very small visual signal advising the user that the camera is activated.
- ▶ No audio and very small visual signal advising the user that the camera is on.
- ▶ Battery life dropped below 10% during the shift.
- ▶ Small activation button and difficult to activate during a stressful and non stressful event.

# Motorola WatchGuard (Pros)

- ▶ Record after the fact technology allows the agency to go back in time and capture video from 48hrs prior.



# Motorola WatchGuard (Cons)

- ▶ Poor mounting system
- ▶ Low video quality
- ▶ Small activation button and difficult to use
- ▶ Evidencelibrary.com difficult to navigate
- ▶ Backend client for uploading and reviewing was not user friendly—difficult to navigate
- ▶ Need to install Hotspots at the PD as videos would only download at the station. This is currently done via cellular and immediately downloaded
- ▶ Unable to place evidentiary pictures in their system. We would need to still maintain the Panasonic program we currently utilize

# Cost

Pricing includes  
116 Body Worn Cameras—(2020 civil unrest)  
44 In-Car Cameras  
Unlimited Storage  
5 year agreement  
Hardware, licensing and warranty

# Cost

- ▶ Axon 5 years total was \$1,281,783.00 or \$256,356 per year
  - ▶ Negotiated down to \$974,999.99 or \$189,025.91 Year One and \$196,493.52 Years 2-5
    - This includes Taser Batteries and proprietary Taser and holster activation technology
    - Replacement of new body cameras after 3 years
    - No additional costs for installation.
- ▶ Motorola WatchGuard 5 year total = \$745,260.00 or \$149,052.00 per year
  - Replacement of new body cameras after 3 years
  - Additional one time installation cost of \$18,480.00 (44 cars @ \$420.00)
  - Total Program Cost is \$763,740.00 (\$745,260.00 + \$18,480.00)
- ▶ Panasonic 5 year total = \$1,215,059.00 or \$243,011.80 per year
  - Replacement of new body cameras after 3 years
  - Additional one time installation cost of \$18,480.00 (44 cars @ \$420.00)
  - Total Program Cost is \$1,233,539.00 (\$1,215,059.00 + \$18,480.00)

# Funding

- ▶ Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Camera Grant
- ▶ Bureau of Justice Assistance-- Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies Grant
- ▶ Additional Grants
- ▶ Orland Park has received \$21,255.00 in donations from 17 donors for the Police Body-Worn Camera project

# Recommendation and Conclusion

- ▶ It was an unanimous decision amongst all the officers involved in the testing of the Body Worn Cameras that the Axon product was the leader and best suited the needs of the Orland Park Police Department.
- ▶ One of the leading issues with the BWC's is the triggering/activation of the video.
- ▶ The in-car activation triggers are similar across all three systems.
- ▶ At this time Axon is the only vendor with a proven holster activation for the firearm and Taser which is currently carried in the field by the officers.
- ▶ The need to activate the camera upon removal of the duty weapon is paramount to the success of our BWC program.