



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 4

Agenda Date: October 10, 2023

In Control: Public Safety Committee

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

San Antonio Police Department Recommendation to Amend and Extend the Body Worn Camera Contract to Include In Car Video and Interview Rooms

SUMMARY:

The San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) will provide the Public Safety Committee a briefing on the recommendation to extend the Body Worn Camera Contract and amend it to include In Car Video and Interview Rooms.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In October 2015, City Council authorized the execution of a contract with Taser International, Inc. (currently known as Axon) to provide the San Antonio Police Department with Body Worn Camera Technology Solutions. The body worn camera equipment can gather and store video evidence recordings of officer and citizen interactions. The initial term for this contract was October 1, 2015, through October 28, 2020, with three additional one-year renewals at the City's

option through October 28, 2023.

In October 2010, SAPD contracted with COBAN Technologies to equip police patrol vehicles with mobile video and voice recording equipment installed in marked patrol vehicles. This equipment gathers video evidence of officer and citizen interactions from the patrol vehicle perspective, with data saved to a server-based system. The COBAN In-Car Video units are reaching end-of-life status and require replacement.

In 2022, SAPD and the Information Technology Services Department (ITSD) conducted an exploratory process that included contract review, product reviews, demonstrations testing, and pricing evaluations to identify the best in-car video platform to support sworn officers and provide the greatest reliability and efficiency. The secondary goal was to consolidate all video evidence under one existing vendor platform that would meet the functional needs of multiple camera requirements utilizing a robust digital evidence management system.

In September 2022, the SAPD provided a briefing to the Public Safety Committee on the process to recommend a vendor for the in-car video. Following multiple discussions, product demonstrations and extensive comparative field testing SAPD and ITSD determined that the Axon Fleet 3 In-Car camera solution best supported the goal to seamlessly integrate with the current digital video evidence management system. Specifically, Axon's evidence.com is a cloud-based digital evidence management system that allows SAPD to manage, review, and share video digital evidence within a secure platform. This system not only stores digital evidence (videos, audio, images, documents), but also provides advanced tools such as redactions, case building, transcriptions, sharing and integrations. This solution will enable a more efficient interface to ingest evidence into the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. Evidence.com will become the backbone of the City's video evidence management system, incorporating all digital and video evidence in one location.

ISSUE:

SAPD and ITSD seek to extend the current Axon (formerly known as TASER) Body Worn Camera contract for a term of three (3) years, with two (2), three (3) year renewal options with renegotiated pricing and product refresh programs for Body Worn Cameras and amend the contract to include In-Car Video and Interview Room hardware/firmware. This contract will also expand the use of evidence.com as the standard digital evidence management repository for officer interactions with the public. Additionally, the amendment will allow SAPD and ITSD an opportunity to define additional contract terms related to data storage, maintenance and ultimately data retrieval at the end of the contract period.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The FY24 budget includes funding for the cost of Body Worn Cameras and In Car Video but final pricing is under negotiation.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should this testing not be approved, SAPD could continue operating with end-of-life equipment until costly repairs are no longer viable.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is for briefing purposes.