

**REPORT TO THE
CITY COUNCIL**
City of Salinas, California

DATE: 04/14/2015

FROM: Kelly McMillin, Chief of Police

BY: Mike Groves, Commander

SUBJECT: **DIRECT PURCHASE OF TASER AXON BODY WORN CAMERAS**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the direct purchase of seventy (70) Taser Axon body worn cameras through a five-year contract with Taser International, at a total cost of \$388,106.06 with the first year total operating cost at \$123,542.50.

DISCUSSION:

The Salinas Police Department is attempting to outfit each officer with a body worn camera to capture events and interactions between officers and the public. The department tested three different body cameras from three different vendors: Taser International, VieVu, and Pro-Vision Bodycam. All three camera systems provided quality video, with Taser International and VieVu offering the simplest operating platforms and back-end support. Pro-Vision Bodycam did not provide sufficient software to store and recall captured video and was therefore not considered for further testing.

Taser International offers a hard case camera that is weather resistant, simple to use, has adequate battery life and recording time with a 30 second pre-event record buffer. It is Bluetooth enabled to allow officers to enter metadata, such as report numbers, names of persons recorded, and locations, prior to uploading captured video. The captured video is later sent directly to Evidence.com, a cloud-based secure storage location that can only be retrieved by the submitting officer or a police supervisor. This data management system, Evidence.com, is what differentiates Taser cameras from VieVu.

VieVu offers a similar camera, but does not have comparable back-end software support. This camera also demonstrated accidental activations during the testing phase. The VieVu system would require the Salinas Police Department to create and manage a primary and back-up server and provide the staff to copy any requested video obtained during an officer's shift. This would place an unacceptable burden on police staffing and an additional cost to implement the program.

Taser International has become the industry standard. Their camera systems are currently being used by the Los Angeles Police Department, San Diego Police Department, Fresno Police Department, Sonoma County Sheriffs' Department, and many law enforcement agencies across the State.

With current staffing levels, seventy (70) cameras would be sufficient to outfit each uniformed officer assigned to the patrol division with a body worn camera. A five-year contract with Taser International would provide the cameras, base stations and sufficient storage and video management software. At the 2.5-year and 5-year mark, all cameras and equipment would be replaced with new cameras and equipment. During the course of this contract, each officer would receive the initial camera, plus two complete upgrades by the end of the contract.

City Council has the authority to approve this purchase under Salinas Municipal Code Section 12-27. The City's local purchasing preference does not apply in this instance as there are no local vendors who provide this product or this service.

ISSUE:

Shall the City Council authorize the direct purchase of seventy (70) Taser Axon body worn cameras from Taser International at a total cost of \$388,106.06?

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

FISCAL IMPACT:

The first year cost would be \$123,542.50. Sufficient funds are available to cover this purchase for the first year. These funds are from a \$100,000 grant from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation specifically for body-worn cameras and \$49,666.00 from the State Board of Community Corrections. There is no general fund impact for the first year.

The second year through the fifth year total cost would be \$60,156.00 per year and will need to be supported from the City's General Fund or from the Measure V or Measure G funds.

TIME CONSIDERATIONS:

Police staff believes body worn cameras are an important tool in modern policing and will be valuable in improving transparency, accountability and in enhancing community trust; therefore, staff requests immediate action.

ALTERNATIVES/IMPLICATIONS:

Not authorize the purchase proposed in this report and direct staff otherwise how to proceed.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS:

This purchase supports the Council's goal of maintaining a safe and livable community for all its residents.

CONCLUSIONS:

Staff recommends City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the direct purchase seventy (70) Taser Axon body worn cameras from Taser International of Scottsdale, Arizona for a total cost of \$388,106.06 spread out over a 5-year period.

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