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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: June 15, 2021

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry   
County Administrator

Re: **Body Worn Camera (BWC) Devices and TASERs for County Law Enforcement Personnel**

Enclosed is a June 14, 2021 memorandum from Procurement Director Terri Spencer and Information Technology Chief Information Officer Dan Hunt regarding development of BWC devices for all County law enforcement personnel and replacement TASERs. The Sheriff has been working with Axon, a manufacturer of BWCs and TASERs. The attached memorandum discusses the need to acquire this equipment using a No Substitute/Sole Source Procurement and such has been concurred in by our Procurement Director. I have also asked our Information Technology (IT) Chief Information Officer to review this purchase since it also relies heavily on IT automated systems.

Included in the \$1.1 million Sheriff's supplemental budget is a request for body worn cameras. Sheriff Nanos has also requested that TASERs be replaced since the existing TASERs now being utilized by law enforcement personnel are similar in color and shape to County-issued firearms for law enforcement personnel. Sheriff Nanos desires TASERs that are completely different in color so there can be no mistake as to whether an officer is using either a lethal weapon or TASER. The request has been increased to provide both BWCs and TASERs for all law enforcement and corrections personnel.

The replacement of all TASERs will increase the cost of both BWC devices and TASERs to approximately \$1.6 million in the first year; therefore, in the Final Budget Adoption there will be a request for an additional \$500,000 in the Sheriff's tentative budget, for a total of \$2.1 million this year, which will be an ongoing expense.

It should be remembered that this is not a one-time cost, there will be continuing costs. The total cost breakdown from Axon for the proposed equipment over a 10-year period is \$23,103,889.38 with \$1.76 million expended in year 1; \$2.84 million for years 2–5; and \$1.99 million for years 6–10. The only hardware costs will be for the BWCs in the amount of \$559,200 in Year 1 plus software/service costs. The remainder of the program (years 2–10) will be paid via ongoing subscription fees. The BWC equipment will be replaced every 30 months and the TASERs every 5 years.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors

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The recently largest risk management losses have occurred in the Sheriff's Department; hence, the additional information provided by BWCs will be helpful in developing policies to reduce these losses.

Given the national concern over police accountability, it is appropriate and necessary that the Sheriff be provided these funds to provide body worn cameras to all law enforcement personnel.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c:     The Honorable Chris Nanos, Pima County Sheriff  
       Richard Kastigar, Jr., Chief Deputy, Pima County Sheriff's Department  
       Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator  
       Michelle Campagne, Director, Finance and Risk Management  
       Patrick McGee, Budget Manager, Finance and Risk Management

**Date:** June 14, 2021

**To:** C. H. Huckelberry, County Administrator

**From:** Terri Spencer, Procurement Director   
Procurement Department

Dan Hunt, Chief Information Officer  
Information Technology Department 

**Re:** Acquisition of Body Camera Devices / TASERs for Sheriff's Law Enforcement Personnel

Pursuant to BOS Policy D29.2, Procurement Code Titles 11.12.050, and Procurement Standard Operating Procedure PO-45, the Pima County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) has submitted a valid justification for a No Substitute / Sole Source Procurement for the referenced devices based upon the following justification from PCSD:

PCSD has been using TASER™ as a less lethal option for over fifteen years. Deputies have been trained on this specific platform and are familiar with its function and operation. Switching to a different platform would be difficult due to years of consistent training on a familiar reliable platform. The issue of mistaking a new platform with a firearm is a major concern with switching less lethal systems. Every deputy has undergone extensive training with the TASER platform and its many unique features.

PCSD would also like to purchase Body Worn Cameras (BWC) for all of the deputies, sergeants and some corrections officers and asserts that Axon, the manufacturer of TASER, makes a reliable and commonly used BWC that is compatible with the TASER platform. PCSD states that the Axon BWC offers many features that cannot be gained with any other manufacturer, the most important of which are:

- Compatibility with the TASER platform - Activation of TASER will automatically turn on all BWCs on any one equipped with an Axon BWC in the area
- Holster sensor - Removing a firearm from a holster will automatically turn on all BWCs on any one equipped with an Axon BWC in the area
- Automated redaction assistance - Requests for videos generated by the public are the most labor intensive aspect of BWCs

The other features offered in Axon's package deal are less expensive than purchasing them individually from other vendors and may not be compatible with the Axon products we need.

Some of the included features are:

- Electronic evidence management system.
- An app for iOS and Android phones to use as an evidence gathering tool.
- Third party video support.

The deputies often work closely with other area law enforcement agencies. All the major agencies in the area use the Axon system. Should an officer in another agency activate their TASER, all Axon cameras in the area would activate and start recording the incident from multiple angles adding a level of transparency and accuracy that no other BWC system can do.

The Pima County Attorney's office uses the Axon evidence management system and utilizes footage from the other county law enforcement agencies and continued utilization of Axon devices would allow PCSD to remain consistent with the PCAO system.

PCSD has provided the following information from Axon regarding the acquisition structure of the system:

- Axon provides fixed-cost pricing models to give cities and counties cost-predictability during the term of our partnerships. The proposed program includes all hardware, software licensing, cloud storage, hardware warranties, and upgrades for a fixed annual price.
- In the first year of the agreement, the county will pay for hardware (BWCs and docking stations) in addition to the first year of licensing that includes software, storage, and warranties. In subsequent years, the county will only pay a fixed-cost licensing fee. Every 30 months, Axon will upgrade Sheriff's BWCs and docking stations. At the middle of the term (month 60) Axon will upgrade the BWCs (for the second time) in addition to the TASERS.
- Because county would pay for the hardware upfront, county would own (vs lease) the hardware. The county will pay for all other items (software, storage, warranties, etc.) throughout the term. This model enables the county to predict costs more effectively, minimize large capital expenses, and take advantage of automatic software and hardware upgrades as they become available.

See attached detailed cost breakdown from Axon for the proposed plans and packages in the total amount of \$23,103,889.38 scheduled for payment over a 10-year period.

County ITD, Pima County Attorney, and Sheriff Department staff members were present during the initial demonstration of the Axon system and capabilities. Axon had sales staff as well as technical staff in attendance to ensure they could answer all questions presented. To our pleasure, all questions that were asked by County staff were able to be answered, and we were shown the functionality within their system that was being questioned. County Attorney staff were able to provide examples of what they were able to do utilizing the tools within the Axon platform, mainly in the areas of redaction, and utilization of the evidence once it had been saved into the system.

PCSD also has a need to replace their Digital Information Management System (DIMS). The question was asked if the Axon cloud based system, that ties all evidence to a specific case, could also tie additional digital evidence that was not captured by Axon device(s) into their system. They agreed this could be something that could be made available by purchasing

additional storage space within their system. This could be a major win by not having to have two separate systems.

A follow up meeting was held with Axon, PCSD, County Procurement and ITD on June 8, 2021 to gather all of the details that were required to fully answer the questions that had been asked. During that meeting Procurement and IT related questions were answered to our satisfaction. Based on the discussions in the meeting, updated quotes were provided and have been reviewed and approved by PCSD and ITD.

Procurement will now proceed with final discussions necessary to arrive at an acceptable sole source agreement.

C: The Honorable Chris Nanos, Pima County Sheriff  
Richard Kastigar, Jr., Chief Deputy, Pima County Sheriff's Department  
Mark Dinniman, Commander, Pima County Sheriff's Department  
Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator