

Purchase Packet for 20OCT Commission meeting

Jim A. Blocker <JABlocker@battlecreekmi.gov>

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To: Chris L. Huff <CLHuff@battlecreekmi.gov>; Nils P. Vos <npvos@battlecreekmi.gov>

Cc: Jill H. Steele <JHSteele@battlecreekmi.gov>; Linda A. Morrison <LAMorrison@battlecreekmi.gov>; Sarah E. VanWormer <SEVanWormer@battlecreekmi.gov>



Good morning purchasing-

Most of you are aware, the department has been testing and evaluating multiple body worn camera(BWC) systems over the past three years. I have had the challenge of working through the question of how to add a new line of equipment(BWC's) while also replacing the current and out of date in-car systems. Jill, and Nancy would agree-nothing worse than when asked if we have an incident on video-and the answer is no, or the equipment was not working.

We have sought after and received funding in support of the cost of this new program. MMRMA granted this department, \$300 per unit, up to \$6,000 and Rebecca has set aside funds, last year and again this year out of the Risk fund to support the purchase.

The addition of BWC's into our standard equipment list, although expensive has become necessary, even more so today than in the past. This is a costly purchase. To that end, since 2017, we have been researching and working with four vendors-all with varying degrees of products, capabilities, and cost models. In the end, we have settled on the Utility Bodyworn system. This system has a product that satisfies all our inquiries, many of which we have figured out as we tested these systems(below), to include importantly our IT partners. The purchase agreement is attached.

We looked for-

Real time audio and video monitoring

Real time GPS tracking

Real time video accessibility vice waiting for downloads

Officer specific body worn and In-car system

Officer accessible customer service-not a call during business hours

Officer Emergency alert system-Pursuit, Officer down, weapon drawn, etc notification

Internal Partner Accessibility(City/Labor Attorney, Labor, CCPO)

Vendors we tested and evaluated over a three-year period-

Axon/Tazer-

Coban-current system

Watchguard-we have purchased 20 BWC's

Utility Bodyworn-PA attached

Through experience, it was understood that every company provided capabilities that often the other might not have. We looked at pricing, many companies either focused on equipment, service, software, or a combination of them all. This made a side by side comparison difficult. Added to this was the reality that technology, access software (cloud or server) and speed was changing at a pace our test and evaluation system could hardly keep up with.

Included into the evaluation team over time has been IT and BCPD Command and various Officers. After discussing this system with our internal partners, as well as Rebecca-who supports this purchase, it is my recommendation to move forward with this request and a resolution before the commission. This provides BCPD a stable cost for the next 5 years that addresses the most complicated issue we were experiencing today-which was how to replace all our in-car systems and add body worn systems in this fiscal environment as well as retain a reliable technology platform we can have faith in.

Available for any questions that you might have, let me know what else you need to work through this process.

R,

jb

Jim A. Blocker

Chief of Police

**City of Battle Creek
Police Department**

34 North Division Street
Battle Creek, Michigan 49014

Ph- 269.966.3375

Fx- 269.962.0102

jablocker@battlecreekmi.gov

<http://www.battlecreekmi.gov>



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