

Office of the County Auditor

Auditor's Analysis

Council Bill No. 90-2021

Introduced: November 1, 2021

Auditor: Edward L. Shulder

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this legislation is an increase of \$4,698,417 in County expenditures over the five-year period of the Purchase Agreement. For Fiscal Year 2022, funds totaling \$981,000 representing estimated first year expenses for body-worn camera (BWC) equipment and related costs have been appropriated in Pay-As-You-Go funds. According to the Axon Enterprise, Inc., quote, first year costs total \$936,285. The Administration advised our Office that the excess appropriation authority of \$45,000 would be used to purchase additional items required to implement the program -including vehicles, computers, etc. - for the new BWC Program sworn police officer positions.

Purpose:

The purpose of this legislation is to approve a five-year agreement between the County and Axon Enterprise, Inc., to provide BWC equipment and related items (such as batteries, docking stations, and video storage).

Other Comments:

- Pricing for this equipment has decreased. A June 2020 quote from the vendor for the Police Department totaled \$4,389,885 for the five-year term (as opposed to current quote of \$3,957,355).
- The Administration advised that future year funding for this quote will be general funds.
- As a result of the language in the State law requiring BWC for “each law enforcement officer employed by the law enforcement agency who regularly interacts with members of the public as part of the law enforcement officer’s official duties,” the Police Department has taken the position that all sworn officers will require a BWC. The Police Department stated that other jurisdictions are taking the same approach. As a result, the BWC Program will be expanded to all 484 sworn officer positions. The Administration estimated that this will increase costs by \$1.2 million starting in FY 2023 for the BWC equipment. (This is in addition to the amount appropriated in the FY 2022 budget.) Other costs, such as staffing to review

additional footage, has not been determined. We were advised that the BWC quote for the Sheriff's Office is adequate to cover all sworn positions. Initial discussions on the BWC Program included one position in the Office of the Fire Marshall. The Administration stated that this position will likely be included in the BWC Program starting in FY 2023.

- The Police Department and Sheriff's Office have identified additional costs for implementing the BWC Program such as computers and related costs for technical staff, uninterrupted power supplies, and other information technology equipment. The total cost of these auxiliary items has not been determined, although the Sheriff's Office has estimated it will require an additional \$30,000 for BWC Program implementation. The Administration is working on determining all additional BWC Program costs and the source of funds to cover these costs.
- We noted a potential discrepancy in the Axon Enterprise, Inc., quote for the Police Department (Exhibit A of the Bill). The quote contains two bundles for BWC cameras, mounts, and related items. Each bundle includes the same items and quantity. The price for one bundle (\$209,700) exceeded the other bundle price (\$126,177) by \$83,523. The Police Department advised they would investigate the difference.