



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: BC 24-036

March 28, 2024

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Matter Type: Budget Committee

- a. Support accepting FY 2023-2024 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Grant award of \$600,000, contingent upon the County of Monterey providing a match for grant award; and
- b. Support authorizing and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Sheriff-Coroner's FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget 001-2300-SHE001-8242 by increasing appropriations by \$1,981,091 financed by BJA Grant award of \$349,800 and \$1,631,291 in Unassigned Fund Balance (BSA 001 3101) or other funding as directed by the Budget Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee:

- a. Support accepting FY 2023-2024 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Grant award of \$600,000, contingent upon the County of Monterey providing a match for grant award; and
- b. Support authorizing and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Sheriff-Coroner's FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget 001-2300-SHE001-8242 by increasing appropriations by \$1,981,091 financed by BJA Grant award of \$349,800 and \$1,631,291 in Unassigned Fund Balance (BSA 001 3101) or other funding as directed by the Budget Committee.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

At this time the Monterey County Sheriff's Office does not utilize Body Worn Cameras (BWC) in its day-to-day operations. The Sheriff's Office is in the minority locally and across the nation of agencies who are not using this tool for increased evidentiary value and community transparency. With this in mind the Sheriff's Office established a goal to implement a BWC program across the entire organization to ensure every sworn would have an assigned camera as it is known BWCs increase transparency, help to build trust within the communities we serve, increase both officer and citizen safety, aid in the investigation and prosecution of crimes, and are a common tool across the law enforcement profession. To implement this goal the Sheriff's Office applied for and was awarded a grant from the United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance in the amount of \$600,000 for the purchase and implementation of a Body Worn Camera program. The awarded grant can be utilized to provide funding over a 3-year period from the award date and requires \$600,000 funding match during the 3-year grant period as well. All grant funds must be expended prior to the conclusion of September 2026.

Consultation with County Contract Purchasing was undertaken to ensure vendor selection process adhered to County processes. A sole source process utilizing a Sourcewell Collaborative Agreement was initiated at the conclusion of consultation with County Contract Purchasing. A comprehensive review of vendors who provide BWCs was undertaken, and AXON Enterprises (AXON) was selected to provide BWCs and related services to the Sheriff's Office. The vendor is honoring

pricing pursuant to a separate Sourcewell Contract #010720-AXN to which the County of Monterey is not a signatory.

The Sheriff's Office is seeking first year funding to enter into a 10-year agreement with AXON totaling \$15,931,754 over the life of the contract for BWCs and related equipment and services. The term of the agreement would be June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2034. The first-year fee is \$1,981,091 with \$349,800 available from the BJA grant to offset year one fees. Fees for years two through ten set at \$1,155,074 with \$125,100 available from the BJA grant to offset fees in years two and three. AXON provides value to the Sheriff's Office through the equipment and services they provide and their capability to bundle them.

Over the life of the agreement the BWCs and their associated hardware would be warrantied for replacement and have a built-in equipment replacement schedule for each unit at month 30, month 60, and month 90 of the agreement. If, during the agreement, the model in use was discontinued then AXON would upgrade the unit if related to a warranty claim or equipment replacement schedule milestone.

During the first six months of the calendar year 2023 a comprehensive review of less lethal de-escalation devices was conducted. The Sheriff's Office currently utilizes AXON Tasers as a less lethal smart weapon force option allowing for the incapacitation of parties to reduce the likelihood of physical altercations and potentially resolve incidents involving individuals in crisis. The ability to have multiple less lethal force options at a deputy's disposal is critical to create an environment where the minimal amount of force needed to resolve a situation is used. It has been determined every Sheriff's Office AXON Taser electronic control device is over 5 years old, has reached the end of its serviceable life, and thus outside its warrantied lifespan from AXON. As the Tasers are taken offline due to equipment failure they are not repaired or replaced by the Sheriff's Office as the models used are no longer serviced or available from AXON.

AXON does not warranty their devices when they are over 5 years old but does provide a \$10 million insurance policy on every device within the warranty period in the event there is an adverse liability issue from their use. The lack of sufficient Tasers could expose the Sheriff's Office and County to liability in the event of a claim against the County. By bundling the BWC purchase with the need to replace the entire AXON Taser inventory the Sheriff's Office is able to save the County \$4.05 million over the life of the contract which correlates to \$405,000 per year in savings. Over the life of the agreement the Tasers and their associated hardware would be warrantied for replacement and have a built-in equipment replacement schedule for each unit at month 60 of the agreement. If, during the agreement, the model in use was discontinued then AXON would upgrade the unit if related to a warranty claim or equipment replacement schedule milestone.

Law enforcement technology is advancing at a rapid pace while at the same time mandates created by legislative bodies and the expectations of the public are growing. Transparency in policing as well as integration of crisis intervention and de-escalation training is critical to the establishment and retention of public trust. The systems being proposed, and their functional interfaces are supported by the backbone of AXON called Evidence.com. Additionally, this system would seamlessly interface with AXON Air which the Sheriff's Office uses for management of drone services and operations. As part

of the agreement, the Sheriff's Office would receive unlimited cloud-based data storage capabilities meeting the targeted goals of the County as it moves into the future. The following is a summary of each system incorporated into the proposal with AXON:

- AXON Body 4

AXON Body 4 provides high-definition body cameras with reduced motion blur with clear evidence during playback and near-photographic levels of detail. It allows for live-streaming through AXON Respond and identifying officer locations while recording or live-streaming. It is compatible with AXON Signal which allows for wireless activation. The camera has lights to the front which provide transparency to the public without compromising officer-safety. Four microphones work together to capture clear audio. It has a durable rugged design. Video recall allows for recall of 18-hours of audio free footage based on program settings agencies establish.

- AXON Signal

Signal is a technology that enables the AXON body worn cameras to sense, through a "signal," nearby events and start recording. When a signal is transmitted due to the activation of a device with "signal" technology, all cameras within fifteen yards are remotely turned on to begin recording. Axon Signal transmits signals to any camera within range wirelessly enabling recording to occur when a handheld Taser is powered on; a body worn camera is manually activated to record; an officer unholsters his firearm. High stress situations are a primary cause for loss of video through late activation or non-activation of cameras. Signal, through technology, reduces the likelihood through automated activation.

- AXON Taser 10

AXON's newest less lethal smart weapon. As part of the agreement, AXON will provide a Hook and Loop training suit to allow staff to integrate live training the deployment of a Taser on real people. In addition, AXON will provide all the requisite training cartridges to ensure training mandates are met for the life of the agreement, ensuring staff are up to date on the use of the device and reducing liability exposure. All Tasers purchased as part of this agreement would carry AXON's warranty and liability policy for the life of the agreement.

- AXON Evidence

Manages all types of physical evidence and data, including body-worn video, in-car video, interview room video, CCTV, photographs, audio, documents, and more. It provides a chain of custody on evidence and review actions taken by users with access to the system. The system allows for seamless sharing of evidence with the District Attorney and Public Defender's Offices and uploading of evidence in any format. It includes redaction assistant software to detect and mask common objects, such as license plates, faces, and screens. Searches are allowed by officer, incident, location, and other defined tags. It also allows for storage of information generated by mobile devices in the field.

- AXON Respond

Respond integrates location data and live streaming video feeds from Axon devices to give officers, supervisors, and command staff a complete picture of evolving situations on any device anywhere. Data gathered from connected sensors is immediately accessible by the rest of the Respond real-time operations platform resulting in better visibility and faster responses.

Respond works seamlessly with Axon Body 4 cameras and air drones. The system provides the ability to see what is happening on the ground and in the sky and send information through voice or text messages with automated event channels and attachment support. A field commander can view team member locations or streams and better coordinate the operation. Supervisors and officers can see how officers handle calls for service and offer feedback. Commanders can get better visibility of perimeter coverage with real-time views of officer and drone location. An investigator could look for details that the on-scene officer may not be able to focus on. Officers, supervisors, and command staff can receive text based real time notifications for unholstering of defined equipment such as firearms and smart weapons. Respond can be monitored from anywhere an internet connection is available.

- **AXON Performance**

Axon Performance can streamline the supervisor review process and reduce the time it takes to ensure that teams are operating within agency guidelines and policies. Staff utilize Axon Evidence to get access to key body-worn camera metrics in near-real-time. The system evaluates calls for service, guides supervisors through their review workflows, keeps track of previously recorded reviews, and helps standardize the review process with a randomized video selection feature.

- **AXON Citizen**

Axon Citizen enables staff to invite individual witnesses or the entire community to directly submit photos and videos of an incident. Submissions go straight to Axon Evidence, where they are instantly categorized and searchable. Audit trails show officer and collection information and data. Community members can choose to keep their contact information from being stored in the application. Triage tools help officers reviewing submissions quickly decide which media to accept or decline. Large volumes of submissions are supported no matter the size or scale of event.

- **Axon View and Capture**

Axon Capture is an application built for agency smartphones making recording photo, audio and video evidence easy and secure. Evidence is automatically tagged with GPS locations, and metadata is synchronized to the officer's Axon Evidence (Evidence.com) profile without leaving the scene. Live video streaming, instant replay, and on-the-spot evidence turns routine video into valuable evidence and reduces distractions by automatically filing the video into the correct retention schedule.

- **Axon Redaction**

Redaction Assistant was designed to manage the most common objects found in body-worn videos, saving Records staff time so they can focus on more complex work. Redaction Assistant will automatically identify the screens, faces and license plates in video footage.

- **AXON Auto-Transcribe**

Auto-Transcribe allows a user to type a word and jump right to that spot in the video or audio, eliminating the need to review the whole file. This allows officers to reference when critical details in the evidence were said and by which speaker with embedded timestamps. It transcribes multiple videos/audio files at one time, including body-worn video, in-car video, interview room video, CCTV, audio recordings, and more. It provides a high level of accuracy, sharing of transcripts, is fully CJIS compliant and is encrypted in transit and at rest.

- AXON Virtual Reality (VR) Training

Axon VR Training prepares officers for complex real-world situations by bringing immersive content to devices that can be used wirelessly anywhere and pairing it with an extensive training platform. Access training session recordings and analytics enable new opportunities for coaching and program development. It provides officers with a library of over ten modules, enhances their ability to better address community needs with critical thinking, analytical and de-escalation skills. It also provides officers with valuable tools and techniques to identify, address, and cope with the psychological impact of public safety professions.

- AXON Records

A cloud-based reporting system which allows officers to author reports in the field. This feature will not be utilized at this time as it does not include a jail management component but would be available for utilization at a later date. The system is interoperable with AXON Evidence providing direct access to video, pictures, documents, and citizen captured evidence. It allows for the scanning of information and transcription with AXON Body 4 cameras directly into a report. It also allows for electronic submission of all information collected to the District Attorney's Office, eliminating manual packaging and considerable lost staff time. Over the life of the agreement, annual maintenance fees for the program are integrated as a packaged fee ensuring the program is regularly maintained and updated. As AXON develops new features within AXON Records, they would be released to the Police Department as part of the existing fee structure.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

CAO has reviewed the report.

FINANCING:

The Sheriff's Office is asking support from the Budget Committee to increase appropriations and estimated revenues of the FY 2023-2024 Adopted Budget in the amount of \$1,981,091 in the Sheriff-Coroner's FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget 001-2300-SHE001-8242 financed by BJA Grant award of \$349,800 in year 1 and \$1,631,291 funding as directed by the Budget Committee. An augmentation request has been included in the FY2024-25 Sheriff's Office budget request. Future years will need to be addressed in the budget process.

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Attachments:

Budget Committee Report

Axon Quote

Award Package