



**MEMORANDUM**  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE**  
**ADMINISTRATION**  
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors

DATE: April 27, 2021

FROM: Todd Leopold, County Executive Officer  
By: Bekki Riggan, Deputy County Executive Officer  
Capt. Jeff Swearingen, Placer County Sheriff's Office  
Amanda Flaa, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Update on Proposed Body-Worn Camera Program

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

1. Receive an update on a proposed Body-Worn Camera Program.
2. Approve proposed Body-Worn Camera Program for a period of three (3) years.
3. Authorize the Sheriff's Office to enter into a three (3) year contract with Motorola for the Motorola Watchguard V300 Body-Worn Camera system.
4. Authorize all necessary budget amendments for the creation of three full-time positions within the District Attorney's Office and three full-time positions within the Sheriff's Office as proposed herein.

**BACKGROUND**

On January 12, 2021, staff provided an update to your Board on the evaluation of a Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Program for the Placer County Sheriff's Office. During this presentation staff shared findings from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that well-constructed BWC programs can provide numerous benefits to law enforcement agencies and local criminal justice systems to include: increasing accountability and transparency; reducing complaints and resolving officer-involved incidents; identifying and addressing operational training or performance issues; and enhanced evidence collection and documentation. Your Board directed staff to conduct a technical review with Information Technology, review position requests with Human Resources, research procurement requirements, develop policies and procedures, and return to your Board with a recommended funding and implementation plan.

BWC Program Implementation and Stakeholder Outreach

After extensive research and testing, the Sheriff's Office, with the concurrence of the Information Technology Department, selected the Motorola Watchguard V300 Body Worn Camera system. This system scored the highest from an operational perspective and met the goal of having an integrated BWC and in-car camera system. This integration allows: 1) BWC and in-car cameras to be activated together to ensure both vantage points are captured for video evidence; 2) Patrol staff to view BWC video in the same viewing and case numbering system as the current in-car camera video system; and 3) One platform/one vendor for technical support issues.

If approved, the Sheriff's Office will assign BWCs to all sworn staff in Field Operations and to Correctional Officer staff for use in both county Corrections facilities.

For Field Operations, BWCs will be used by patrol deputies and other sworn staff. Patrol deputies' BWCs will integrate with the in-car camera system to ensure dual activation on an incident. BWCs

will also auto-activate recording and audio capture. When the incident concludes, the cellular wireless router in the vehicle will automatically upload the encrypted video to the secure Watchguard cloud platform for viewing by PCSO personnel and for archiving purposes consistent with the retention policy. Uploading video directly from the field will allow deputies to remain on patrol and maintain a public safety presence in the community, rather than having to return to the station to upload video. Other non-patrol staff assigned BWCs will manually activate and deactivate cameras according to policy. At the completion of those incidents, non-sworn staff will return to the office and return assigned BWCs to the docking/charging stations which will securely upload video to the Watchguard cloud platform using the County's Internet connection.

For Corrections, the BWCs will be used by designated corrections staff. As with non-patrol sworn staff, corrections staff will manually activate and deactivate their cameras according to policy and at the completion of the incident, will return to the office and return assigned BWCs to the docking/charging station which will securely upload video to the Watchguard cloud platform using the County's Internet connection.

To ensure proper management of video evidence training, technical support for hardware and software, PCSO is requesting three full-time positions as follows:

- Information Technology Analyst II - \$163,000/year
- Evidence Technician II - \$112,000/year
- PSU Detective (Deputy Sheriff II) - \$195,000/year
  - \$45,000 in start-up costs for equipment and supplies

To accommodate the additional workload to review and prepare video for court appearances as well as demands related to newly enacted legislation, which define District Attorney staff as the custodian of the video files for purposes of Public Records Act requests, the District Attorney's Office is requesting three full-time positions as follows:

- District Attorney Investigator - \$158,000/year
- Investigative Assistant - \$112,000/year
- Investigative Assistant - \$112,000/year

The Human Resources Department worked closely with the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office to conduct a scope of work analysis on each of the requested new positions and validated that the proposed allocations are appropriately classified.

The Sheriff's Office, in consultation with County Counsel, finalized a comprehensive policy for Digital Evidence Capture Systems. The policy applies to evidence that is gathered from BWCs and similar technologies including in-car cameras. The policy provides clear guidelines and expectations for all staff whose job responsibilities involve digital evidence. The policy seeks to strike the appropriate balance between preserving evidence and protecting individual dignity/privacy of crime victims. These policies have been shared with the Placer Public

Employees Organization (PPEO) represented by Local 39 and Placer County Deputy Sheriff's Association (PCDSA) for review.

Procurement Policy Section 3.5E allows for an exception to the competitive bidding process when the Purchasing Agent determines that a formal bid process would not produce any advantage to the County. The Placer County purchasing manager has determined this exception applies to this situation. Watchguard also has a national cooperative agreement with General Services Administration (GSA) and has offered PCSO the same price currently available.

Municipal law enforcement agencies within the County that have a BWC program include Rocklin, Auburn and Lincoln. The City of Lincoln also utilizes the Watchguard system. The District Attorney held conversations with Placer County Law Enforcement (PLEA) regarding a regionally coordinated BWC program. Due to the varied operational requirements, timing, and training needs of municipal law enforcement agencies, a regionally coordinated BWC program is not a feasible alternative.

Operational and Capital Budgetary Impact

Leasing, rather than purchasing, has been determined as the most cost-effective approach to financing this technology-based solution. Other expenses for the BWC program have been evaluated, such as training, one-time hardware and software installation, start-up costs, warranties, cloud-based storage, and supportive professional services. Total costs for the BWC program have been projected for a three-year phased implementation and are summarized below:

Proposed Cost Summary Table

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	3-Year Total
Patrol BWC One-Time Costs	\$ 20,000			\$ 20,000
Patrol BWC Hardware Lease Costs	\$ 190,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 550,000
Patrol BWC Software, Cloud Storage	\$ 150,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 550,000
Patrol ICC One-Time Costs	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000
Patrol ICC Software, Cloud Storage	\$ 90,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 310,000
<b>Patrol Total</b>	<b>\$ 460,000</b>	<b>\$ 470,000</b>	<b>\$ 510,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,440,000</b>
Corrections BWC Hardware Lease Costs	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 180,000
Corrections BWC Software, Cloud Storage	\$ 60,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 300,000
<b>Corrections Total</b>	<b>\$ 120,000</b>	<b>\$ 160,000</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 480,000</b>
Staffing for PCSO (3 positions)	\$ 515,000	\$ 483,000	\$ 502,000	\$ 1,500,000
Staffing for DA (3 positions)	\$ 383,000	\$ 403,000	\$ 424,000	\$ 1,210,000
County IT Network Upgrade One-Time Costs	\$ 20,000			\$ 20,000
County IT Network Carrier Circuit Tier Increase	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 150,000
	<b>\$ 1,548,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,566,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,686,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,800,000</b>

Following the January BOS presentation, costs increased approximately \$960,000 for the three-year term. This increase is attributable to the following: an additional position needed for the District Attorney's Office and costs related to uploading video directly from the field. These changes were reviewed and supported by the County Executive Office.

Staff enlisted the assistance of our federal advocates in our research of potential federal and state grants to assist in the implementation of a BWC Program. Unfortunately, no public safety grant sources currently provide viable grant funding opportunities. Neither the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) nor the Homeland Security Grant currently offer funding for BWC programs. The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant is only open for Tribal Assistance Policing. The most recent grant for BWCs was awarded to Beaver Dam Police Department in Wisconsin by the BJA (DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance Opportunity ID: BJS-2020-17732 posted on 3/6/2020). This grant was only available for the purchase of the cameras, required a 50% match by the home jurisdiction, and did not cover storage or staffing.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The estimated three-year operating costs for implementing a BWC program are as follows: year one \$1,548,000, year two \$1,566,000, and year three \$1,686,000 for a three-year total of \$4,800,000.

Proposed Funding Summary Table

State Prisoner Housing Assistance	\$525,000
Criminal Justice CEO Revenues	\$1,450,000
Public Safety Sales Tax Projections	\$2,578,000
Public Safety Reserves	\$247,000
Total	<b>\$4,800,000</b>

The proposed funding for the first three years of the BWC program relies upon use of several one-time revenue sources. State Prisoner Housing Assistance is one-time funding assistance from the state due to Covid-19 impacts to County correctional programs. Criminal Justice CEO Revenues are annual revenues for public safety program use such as AB109 funding, accrued interest, and A-87 reimbursements. The County’s Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) pro-rata share for FY 2021-22 has increased significantly (approximately \$3M) due to Covid-19 impacts to statewide spending practices but is anticipated to normalize in FY 2022-23. Sheriff’s and District Attorney’s share of PSST will be set aside for this purpose. Public Safety Reserves of \$247,000 will be utilized to cover the remaining balance for the first three years. These proposed one-time revenue sources are sufficient to cover the first-three years of program expenditures. Growth in on-going revenue to cover costs beyond the first three years will need to be identified and will be directed to fund the BWC program before new programs will be considered.