



Seguin Police Department



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Donna Dodgen, City Council Members, City Manager Parker

FROM: Jason Brady, Chief of Police

REF: Axon Purchase

DATE: September 26, 2024

The department is seeking funding to purchase a complete Axon ecosystem of products. Each system works with the other to produce a sound investment. Currently the department utilizes different systems. Our in-car systems are Watchguard 4RE with the Vista BWC, these are failing at a greater rate and since the system has been deemed end of life will come to an end for parts. The records department utilizes third-party redaction software to use in the Watchguard system. This software is time consuming and can be difficult to use, forcing the user to watch during the redaction. The criminal investigations division utilizes Watchguard BWC for field investigations and the Avigilon cameras in the interview rooms. This requires the end user to review different systems to review field investigations as well as interviews. Axon will also provide each BWC with internal cellular data for mobile connectivity.

The department wishes to move forward with the Axon Fleet 3 with ALPR (automatic license plate readers) and Cradlepoint 5G cellular routers paired with external antennas for mobile vehicle connectivity, in conjunction with the Axon BWC. The BWC will include Seguin FD Fire Marshall's Office as well as Seguin Animal Services to streamline its use across the departments. The Evidence management will allow cross departments to use, and parameters set allow view of videos specific to that unit. Currently Watchguard does not allow that to happen therefore only Seguin

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PD are given access to the system. Fleet 3 and BWC video evidence and data will upload to Axon's CJIS-compliant Microsoft Azure Government cloud, which provides enhanced security features, including encryption at rest and in transit, role-based access controls, and multifactor authentication. Utilizing Axon's cloud is a pro over the current on-premise server for Watchguard that requires the IT department to manage and perform maintenance outages on a weekly basis for short or extended periods of down time, causing backlogs of time-consuming video evidence uploads. Utilizing the Cradlepoint 5G cellular router's GPS capabilities with the external antenna will fix the AVL (automatic vehicle locate) issue that has seemed to plague the Seguin Police Department and Seguin IT. This is an officer safety standpoint in knowing where vehicle/officers are at. The BWC is capable to streaming a "live view" for supervisors should the need arise where an officer is unable to respond by radio, the view can be activated to see what state the officer may be in.

The department in addition wishes to move forward with replacing the current Axon Taser X26P which has come to the end of life. Currently the department utilizes the X26P and purchases the necessary training cartridges along with duty cartridges annually to ensure the officers are consistent with the tool. With the department bundling the BWC and Taser 10 together we will receive a reduction in price while also adding virtual training goggles in addition to duty/training cartridges sent annually.

The department is embracing new technology to include the addition of drones, this has shown to be effective in use by other agencies to include Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office, New Braunfels PD and other near agencies. The push to Axon will allow integration of the Skydio drone with the Axon evidence, in car system, BWC and potentially Flock cameras.

The overall funding requested is 2.1million which is financed through Axon over a five-year period. The funding is broken down by component with annual payments. The drones are purchased with a three-year warranty that covers a mid-warranty adjustment on the hardware.

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	BWC/Taser 10	Fleet 3 ALPR	Interview	Drone	Total Annual
Year 1	302,254.68	76,535.00	22,339.64	52,770.12	453,899.44
Year 2	221,611.19	172,203.75	22,339.65		416,154.59
Year 3	230,475.63	172,302.75	22,339.65		425,118.03
Year 4	239,694.66	172,203.75	22,339.65		434,238.06
Year 5	249,282.44	172,203.75	22,339.65		443,825.84
Total	\$1,243,318.60	765,350.00	111,698.24	52,770.12	2,173,136.96

The Axon BWC, Fleet3, Taser 10, and interview room equipment will have a “refresh” of equipment mid-point of the five-year contract. What this means is that if there is a new system available, hardware the upgrade is covered under the contract. The drones will be covered by a three-year warranty with a mid-point contract for refresh.

Axon does the initial onsite installation of all equipment which will require minimal downtime for the fleet having to go to an upfitter.

In discussion with IT, the decision was made that upgrading the Cradlepoint cellular router from 4G to 5G, along with replacing the 4G external antenna with a 5G external antenna, would significantly enhance connectivity for the department. The IT department has confirmed that the city would receive a Verizon Wireless billing incentive of \$44,000.00 (\$880.00 per device) with the procurement of Cradlepoint 5G cellular routers from Axon in conjunction with the necessary existing City 5G cellular data plan migrations for the new cellular routers. The Cradlepoint 5G cellular router and external antenna changes increased the budget request an additional \$75,000.00 for the Fleet 3 in car video system. In talks with Axon, they have agreed to waive the pricing increase, with the offer expiring 9/30/2024.

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