



# VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Sheriff

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May 18, 2021

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, California 93009

**Subject:** Approval of and Authorization for the Purchasing Agent to Enter into a 5-Year Contract for Body-Worn Cameras, Conducted Energy Devices and Related Maintenance, Software and Data Storage with Axon Enterprise, Inc., in the Amount of \$2,742,273, Effective July 1, 2021 through July 1, 2026.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Approve and authorize the Purchasing Agent to enter into a 5-year contract between the County and Axon Enterprises, Inc., effective July 1, 2021 through July 1, 2026, providing for body-worn cameras, conducted energy devices and related maintenance, software and data storage.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:**

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	General Fund, Contract Cities Revenue
Funding Match Required:	None
Impact on Other Departments:	None

<u>Summary of Revenues and Costs:</u>	<u>FY2020-21</u>	<u>FY2021-22</u>
Revenues:	\$ 240,927	\$ 240,927
Costs		
Direct	\$ 540,967	\$ 540,967
Indirect Dept.	\$ 0	\$ 0
Indirect - County CAP	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Costs	\$ 540,967	\$ 540,967
Net County Cost	\$ 300,040	\$ 300,040
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0

\*Net cost will be absorbed in the Sheriffs Operating budget for each year as shown.

**Current Fiscal Year Budget Projection:**

<b>Current FY 2020-21 Budget Projection for Sheriff's Police Services – Division 2500 – Unit 2501 Administration</b>				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Variance
Appropriations	\$3,715,695	\$7,713,123	\$7,125,722	\$587,401
Revenue	\$3,133,000	\$4,347,026	\$3,151,697	\$-1,195,329
Net Cost	\$582,695	\$3,366,097	\$3,974,025	\$-607,928

**Discussion:**

On May 10, 2016, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors authorized the Purchasing Agent, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to enter into a 5-year contract between the County and Taser International, Inc., to provide 325 Axon body worn cameras (BWC) and conducted energy weapons (Taser) for deputies assigned to patrol as well as related maintenance, software and data storage. The initial 5-year contract cost to the County was \$2,177,295.50 and it is scheduled to end on June 30, 2021.

Since the inception of that contract, Taser International, Inc. rebranded into Axon Enterprise, Inc.

The Axon body worn camera is a recording system that mounts to the front of a deputy's uniform and has the capability of recording events and citizen contacts throughout the duration of deputy's 12-hour shift. At the conclusion of the shift, any video captured is uploaded to a secure cloud-based storage system. Once uploaded, the videos can be reviewed for court purposes, incident reviews and can also be shared with the District Attorney's Office for criminal proceedings.

The Axon Taser is a conducted energy device that temporarily overrides a resistive subject's central nervous system to allow deputies to gain control of the subject. It is used to control a violent or potentially violent subject while minimizing the risk of serious injury to all parties.

During the last five years, the Sheriff's Office has seen the value of body worn cameras in accurately documenting contacts with the public and has added a layer of accountability, both to our deputy sheriffs and to the public. Over the duration of the first five-year contract, the Sheriff's Office added an additional 38 body worn cameras so our specialized units can record their contacts with the public. As an agency, we've recorded and stored more than 520,000 videos that reside in a convenient and secure cloud storage. The videos have been a critical component in the review of evidence for court proceedings, citizen's complaints and for every use of force incident to determine whether force and tactics used were appropriate.

In 2019, the Sheriff's Office was facing a costly rebuild of our County IT-designed phone application used to take evidentiary field photographs. Because our existing AXON contract allowed us to use a similar Axon application at no cost, the Sheriff's Office migrated its field photograph collection protocol to AXON's application. To date, the Sheriff's Office has taken and stored more than 176,000 images into the secure cloud storage at no additional cost.

Axon is the BWC and taser system used by each of the local law enforcement agencies in Ventura County. The Ventura County District Attorney's Office utilizes Axon's user interface to electronically receive digital evidence from all of the law enforcement agencies in the County. This allows law enforcement to quickly identify each piece of digital media evidence from a case and share it electronically with the District Attorney's Office. This model has resulted in significant savings of time and money for the Sheriff's Office.

The plan being recommended herein is Axon's Officer Safety Plan, along with the addition of an auto-tagging feature and 26 terabytes of additional storage that results in a total 5-year cost of \$2,742,273.45. This compares to a contract amount of \$2,117,295.50 for the initial 2016 contract. The recommended 2021 contract differs from the 2016 contract because we are adding additional features that are described below.

#### **Officer Safety Plan**

This plan pairs 334 body worn cameras and tasers together, resulting in a cost of \$1,308 per unit. This compares to a cost of \$1,188 per unit in the initial contract from 2016, and results in a 10% per unit increase over 5 years. The Officer Safety Plan includes a replacement of the cameras with the newest cameras available at 30 months and again at 60 months. This plan includes all maintenance and warranty of the items for 5 years. The annual cost of this plan is \$436,872, resulting in a total 5-year cost of \$2,184,360 (net of tax). Additionally, there are 29 new body worn cameras without tasers at a cost of \$1,068 per unit, resulting in a total 5-year cost of \$154,860 (net of tax). Taxes related to the body worn cameras over 5-years is \$169,593.45.

#### **Auto-Tagging Feature**

The Auto-Tagging Feature has been added to this contract to improve efficiency in the labeling of digital evidence and in sharing evidence with the District Attorney's Office and other agencies. The feature connects Axon with the Sheriff's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system so that body worn camera videos are automatically linked to a report number generated in CAD during a call for service. It improves the accuracy of video labelling and the ease in identifying video evidence pertinent to criminal cases, uses of force, complaints and other incidents. This feature was not included in the initial contract from 2016. The annual cost for this feature is \$39,204, resulting in a total 5-year cost of \$196,020.



### **Additional Storage**

The Sheriff's Office maintains a local server that holds current and historical evidentiary photographs taken by our Crime Scene Investigators and it also holds reports from Crime Lab scientists. Each year, our internal costs for maintaining a server to meet those needs is \$43,000. The recommended plan includes the additional purchase of 26 terabytes of digital evidence storage to maintain those photographs and reports in the secure, cloud-based storage system where we store all other Axon generated digital evidence. The annual cost for this is \$12,480, however, Axon assumed the cost for the first two years of the contract. This results in the total 5-year cost for this storage of \$37,440. Overall, this results in a net savings to the County by eliminating the cost associated with storing the photographs and reports locally on our own server.

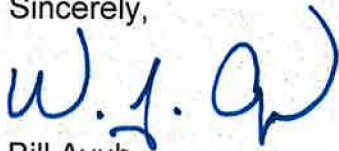
### **Licensing Discount**

In addition to the evidentiary storage discount detailed above, Axon's new billing model includes licensing fees for users who access the cloud-based evidentiary storage to view evidence. Depending upon the level of access needed, these licenses cost either \$180 or \$468. Based on the Sheriff's Office's current user status, the annual cost of these licenses would be \$79,596. After significant negotiations between Axon and the Sheriff's Office, Axon agreed to waive the cost of the licensing for the entirety of the 5-year contract, saving the Sheriff's Office \$397,980.

This proposed 5-year contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. follows the Sheriff's goal of maintaining accountability and transparency for our agency.

The Offices of the County Executive, County Counsel, Human Resources and the Auditor Controller have reviewed this letter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Commander Eric Tennessen at 805-797-7102.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. J. Ayub", written over the printed name.

Bill Ayub  
Sheriff

Attachments:            Exhibit 1 – Axon Agreement and Quote