

Agenda Report

May 6, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Public Safety Committee (April 17, 2024)

FROM: Police Department

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A NEW CONTRACT WITH AXON ENTERPRISE, INC FOR FIVE (5) YEARS NOT-TO-EXCEED \$4,506,601 TO CONSOLIDATE CURRENT BODY WORN CAMERA AND TASER PRODUCT AGREEMENTS, ADD THREE (3) NEW AXON PRODUCTS AND UPGRADE BODY WORN CAMERA AND TASER DEVICES

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3); the "Common Sense" exemption that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment;
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Axon Enterprise Inc. (Axon) to consolidate existing contracts, add products and upgrade devices at a cost not-to-exceed \$4,506,601, including a 10% contingency. Competitive bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(f), for contracts for professional and unique services; and
3. Grant the proposed contract an exemption from the Competitive Selection process pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code section 4.08.049(B) contracts for which the City's best interests are served.

BACKGROUND:

The Police Department (PPD) is committed to the understanding that body worn cameras (BWC) and tasers are important and valuable tools. These tools support transparency and de-escalation with an emphasis on valuing and protecting life. The PPD initiated a BWC program in 2016 under Capital Improvement Project 71158. An extensive search, examination and an RFP process was completed and Axon Enterprise, Inc. (formerly known as TASER International) was the successful proposer.

The PPD has deployed tasers since 2003. Current taser devices were refreshed in 2019 and are near the end of their useful life.

Both BWC and taser products are manufactured by Axon Enterprise, Inc. In the fall of 2022, Axon products Signal Side Arm and Performance were tested and evaluated. The evaluations from staff were positive. December 13, 2021, City Council directed PPD to add Signal Side Arm and Performance Software to it's a-la-carte contract. Staff tested and evaluated the products, however due to staff resources, these products were not fully implemented.

The current agreement for tasers expires August 14, 2024, and the current agreement for BWCs would end with a consolidated product agreement as a new contract. The cost for the current BWC agreement and the stand-alone Taser agreement is \$484,038 a year. The costs of consolidating product agreements, procurement of additional products, and upgrading of existing products will be \$901,320 per year for five years.

Axon				
Products	Current Plan	Proposed Plan	% Increase	Notes
BWC	\$ 310,835	\$ 375,426	17%	Upgrading from AB3 to AB4 Technology
Taser	\$ 129,203	\$ 221,948	42%	Upgrading from Taser 7 to Taser 10
Signal Side Arm	\$ -	\$ 17,127	100%	New Product - Tested and evaluated
Auto-Tagging	\$ -	\$ 41,143	100%	Existing product - Now Charging
Respond +	\$ -	\$ 81,452	100%	New Product
Performance	\$ -	\$ 41,143	100%	New Product - Tested and evaluated
Community Request	\$ -	\$ 41,143	100%	Existing product - Now Charging
Contingency	\$ 44,000	\$ 81,938		10% contingency on the contracts
Total	\$ 484,038	\$ 901,320		

The proposed contract includes Axon products currently in use by PPD and the following Axon products that would be new to PPD:

- 1) AXON Signal Side Arm: A smart sensor that attaches to the officer's holster. It alerts the primary users' AXON BWC and other nearby cameras (approximately within 20 feet) to begin recording the moment the firearm is removed.
- 2) AXON Performance: Software that provides an analytics dashboard of BWC metrics relating to activation, categorization and calls for service identifying rates, that is updated in near real time.
- 3) AXON Respond+: Enables the BWC device capabilities to locate an officer by GPS and allows supervisors real time situational awareness in tactical situation via an LTE connection.

The following Axon products are currently being utilized by the PPD and would be upgraded:

- 1) Taser7: An upgrade to Taser10 model. Axon's most capable and sophisticated taser. The new device capabilities increase accuracy and effectiveness, decreasing the likelihood of an escalation to lethal force.
- 2) AB3 (BWC): An upgrade to Axon Body4 (BWC). A connected camera where imaging and audio meet real time awareness. Features include maximized battery life, upgraded sensor, wider field of view, GPS mapping and streamlined camera administration. There are two (2) refreshes over the course of the proposed contract.

Currently, the PPD deploys 306 of the 316 BWC fleet. They are assigned to both sworn and professional staff department members who routinely encounter the public while working in the field. The PPD's current inventory consists of the Axon body 3, Flex 2 cameras and corresponding docking charging stations. An upgrade to Axon body 4 would reduce the different styles of cameras in our fleet while achieving consistency. The PPD deploys 199 of the 225 Taser7 devices and they are assigned to sworn officers. In August 2023, the Firearms Training Team began a test and evaluation for the Taser10 device. To date, staff evaluations have been positive. An upgrade and replacement of devices would enhance the officer's ability to utilize de-escalation techniques as Taser10 features offer improved range, increased effectiveness, and greater flexibility as an optional tool.

Staff recommends the City enter into a new contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the purchase of AXON products Signal Side Arm, Performance Software, Respond+ and upgrade of AXON products BWC and Taser, at a cost not-to-exceed \$4,506,601 which includes a 10% contingency for any change orders. The proposed contract amounts to a yearly cost of \$901,320 over five years. Utilizing pricing from the Sourcwell AXON government contract #101223-AXN, AXON offered discounted rates for the purchases.

The Axon eco-system is complete and proprietary. No other vendor can provide the comprehensive and integrated set of technologies. The proposal provides both fiscal responsibility and program growth.

The proposal supports the PPD's objective of utilizing and outfitting officers with the current technology tools necessary to effectively carry out their duties and responsibilities, meeting City Council - Public Safety Committee's recommendations for desired technology use and maintaining reasonable fiscal judgement in meeting these objectives.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action is consistent with the City Council's goals and objectives to ensure public safety.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The proposed contract has been determined to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061

(b)(3), the “Common Sense” exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of this action will not exceed \$4,506,061 over five years for FY 2025 through FY 2029 and includes a 10% contingency of \$409,691 to cover change orders. Contract costs will be supported by the General Fund (101) and the Supplemental Law Enforcement Fund (201) as shown in the table below. Beginning in FY 2025 the annual cost for the contract will be included in the Department’s annual operating budget. There are no anticipated IT support costs for this action.

Proposed Axon Contract:	5-Year Term	Annual Cost FY2025 - FY2029
Original Contract Amount	4,096,911	819,382
10% Contingency	409,691	81,938
Total Contract	4,506,602	901,320

Budget:	5-Year Term	Annual Cost FY2025 - FY2029
Fund 101	3,771,602	754,320
Fund 201	735,000	147,000
Total Budget	4,506,602	901,320

Respectfully submitted,


 FOR CHIEF HARRIS

EUGENE HARRIS
Chief of Police

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