



# Agenda Report

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, January 25, 2022

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** POLICE CHIEF ZAMORA  
POLICE CAPTAIN ANTONIO FIGUEROA

**SUBJECT:** RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTRACT WITH AXON ENTERPRISE  
FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN IN-CAR CAMERA SYSTEM FOR AN  
AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,672.25 AND AUTHORIZING CITY  
MANAGER PRO TEMPORE TO EXECUTE CONTRACT

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## **STATEMENT OF ISSUES:**

The Watsonville Police Department has an in-car camera system that is outdated, failing and unreliable.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is recommended that City Council approve a resolution approving the contract between the City of Watsonville and Axon Enterprise, Inc. (Axon) for the purchase of 25 in-car cameras, equipment updates and commitment for five years to Axon's Evidence.com digital media storage solution in an amount not to exceed \$300,672.25; and authorizing the City Manager Pro Tempore to execute the contract.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Watsonville Police Department (WPD) currently maintains a patrol fleet of 25 vehicles. At one point, all the vehicles were outfitted with functioning in-car cameras that were set up on the Data911 platform. Currently, only (3) patrol units are outfitted with functioning in-car cameras. The Data911 equipment and platform that are currently being used for the patrol in-car cameras is outdated, failing, and unreliable. For this reason, the in-car cameras that are no longer functioning have not been replaced in the remainder of the patrol fleet. Because of this, valuable evidence that is commonly gathered from those recordings that often proves critical in criminal prosecutions, is no longer being collected.

In order to update the patrol fleet with a more reliable and efficient solution, the Watsonville Police Department is proposing to purchase the Axon In-Car Cameras and platform, Evidence.com. The WPD has had the opportunity to experience the Evidence.com data management platform for the past 2.5 years, with the implementation of the body worn camera project. This platform has proven to be reliable, efficient, and has cut down on Evidence Unit personnel time needed to process video/audio evidence for prosecution through the District Attorney's Office. Since then, the WPD has also updated the Tasers and

interview rooms to also be managed through the Evidence.com platform. Since the department already uses the Evidence.com platform for digital evidence management, moving forward with the purchase of the Axon in-car cameras will facilitate the transition and increase efficiency instead of storing digital evidence in separate platforms.

Per WMC 3-5.210(c) as equipment and nonprofessional services that are unique, available only from one (1) source, or sought to match existing equipment or supplies already in use. In this case, the in-car camera system qualifies as a sole source purchase because patrol in-car cameras will work in unison with the rest of the digital evidence through the already existing Evidence.com platform/account. Additionally, no other vendor can offer video/audio evidence gathering equipment that will integrate with Axon and the Evidence.com platform.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This contract is consistent with the following Strategic Plan Goal 6 – Public Safety.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

If approved, the City of Watsonville will pay an amount not to exceed \$300,672.25, which includes the purchase of 25 in-car cameras and Evidence.com digital media storage solution. This amount has already been appropriated to be used in Fiscal Year 21-22 using Measure Y funds.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION:**

The City Council may choose to not approve the contract. However, this would prevent the Watsonville Police Department from enhancing the existing technology that is an essential tool for deterring and investigating crimes.

**ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):**

1. Axon Sole Source Letter