

MICHAEL T. CALLAGHAN
CHIEF OF POLICE



459 SIDNEY ST.
BELLEVILLE, ON
K8P 3Z9

CHRIS BARRY
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

P. 613 966 0882
F. 613 966 2701

In Camera: No

Date: Thursday, March 25th, 2021

Belleville Police Services Board

Chair Miller and members of the board;

Subject: Body Worn Camera – Pilot Program

Chiefs recommendation: That the board review and approve the recommendation from Chief Callaghan.

Information factors:

One of the Strategic Objectives identified in the BPS 2019-2021 Strategic Safety Plan is to maintain the public trust and ensure transparency and accountability. To quote Dr. Greg Brown of Carleton University, "The visibility of police actions in the field constitutes, and is now relied on as the principal mechanism to ensure police accountability".

Many Ontario police agencies have embarked on pilot programs involving body worn cameras including the Toronto Police Service, the Peel Regional Police Service, the Durham Regional Police Service, the Guelph Police Service, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, the Barrie Police Service, and the St. Thomas Police Service. The Toronto Police Service recently announced that it will be moving forward with a rollout of BWC's for all of it's front line officers to be completed by October of this year.

There are many benefits to equipping the officers of the Belleville Police Service with body warn cameras including but not limited to:

- Accountability on the part of the officers as well as the members of the public interacting with them.
- Improved evidence collection
- Quicker resolution of complaints

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- Reduction in the stress experienced by officers awaiting the resolution of complaints and investigations into their actions by agencies such as the SIU and OIPRD
- Enhanced ability to recognize positive work performance and utilize these examples for training purposes

Although there are several providers of cameras all of the previously mentioned police agencies have chosen to enter into contracts with Axon Enterprise Inc. On January 20, 2021 the Ontario Solicitor General Sylvia Jones announced that the province would be moving forward with a new digital evidence management system for police and that Axon Public Safety Canada won the contract for this project. The cloud based system for data storage is Ontario based and eliminates the need to copy evidence onto USB sticks and DVD's for disclosure to the Crown Attorney's Offices. The province also announced that it will pay a portion of the licensing fees (45%) for the first year of those Services using Axon's Evidence.Com. This announcement clearly renders Axon the vendor of choice for supplying both the body worn cameras and the digital evidence management program (Evidence.Com).

Attached is a quote received from Stefan Schurman, the Senior regional Manager for Axon for two BWC packages on five-year contracts. The quotes are for 70 cameras required to equip all of the officers involved in front line policing with the Belleville Police Service. It should be noted that there are many different features and add ons that are offered by Axon that can be added onto existing packages for a fee.

On March 10, 2021 Deputy Chief Barry secured a commitment from Stefan Schurman to enter into a pilot program with the Belleville Police Service to provide 28 BWC's and an additional 8 Evidence.Com licenses for a 90 day trial period. These would be provided at no cost to the Service and would provide access to the unlimited package with all of the available features. The number of cameras is based on equipping the platoon officers on day shift and night shift with cameras that would be shared as opposed to individually issued. These would also be issued to the four members of the Traffic Safety Unit. The devices require recharging and download times at the completion of a shift so there is a need for enough to cover two shifts of officers per day. Should we agree to enter into this pilot, tentatively planned for the 4th quarter of 2021 we would be in a position to evaluate these features and determine which ones hold value for our Service to assist in decision making on whether to proceed with a contract with Axon in 2022.

It is important to note that the tentative start date in the 4th quarter of this year is required as there will be a need to develop strict policy and procedures for the use of the cameras. If a decision is made to enter into the pilot it is proposed that both an internal and community survey be created and distributed both prior to

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the rollout of the cameras and at the completion of the 90 day trial period to assist in making a decision about entering into a fixed contract with Axon.

It should also be noted that there is a need for civilian IT support as a result of the increase in FOI requests and disclosure requirements that arise out of the use of these devices. In speaking to Axon representatives and representatives from other Ontario police agencies who have chosen to enter into contracts with Axon, our Service would require an additional 0.5 - 0.75 FTE civilian IT position to assist with the increased workload. There is currently no capacity within the Service to take on the additional tasks that would be generated through the use of these BWC's.

It is the recommendation of Chief Callaghan to authorize Senior Management to enter into a 90 day pilot program as described with Axon to evaluate the benefits of equipping the front line officers of the Service with body worn cameras. This recommendation is conditional on adding at a minimum a 0.5 FTE IT person.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike T. Callaghan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Mike T. Callaghan
Chief of Police

AXON BODY 3 PROGRAMS

Category	Basic + TAP	AB3 Unlimited
Axon Body 3 Camera	70 Axon Body 3	70 Axon Body 3
Docking Stations for Body Cameras	✓	✓
Two Axon Camera and Dock Upgrades	✓	✓
Spare Axon Cameras included	✓	✓
Axon Extended Warranty	5 Years	5 Years
Basic Evidence.com Licenses	80	0
Pro Evidence.com Licenses	5	85
Axon Capture Mobile App	✓	✓
Automated Redaction Tools (Redaction Studio) with Pro licenses	-	✓
Multicam playback (for Axon BWC and Fleet videos) with Pro licenses	-	✓
Axon Citizen for Officers (1:1) with Pro licenses	-	✓
A la carte storage for any type of data	21,000GB	-
Unlimited HD Storage for all BWC and Axon Capture, Citizen 1:1 data	-	✓
Sub-Total (5 Year program)	\$409,298	\$666,958