



Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council

RENEWAL OF AXON ENTERPRISE INC. CONTRACT FOR BODY-WORN CAMERAS AND IN-CAR (FLEET) CAMERAS

Police Chief Paul LeBaron

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council:

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute a sole source five-year contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. to purchase equipment for the Mobile Video System and Body Worn Camera System, with initial payment of \$120,199 and annual payments of \$87,412 for years two through five, for a total contract amount of \$469,847; and
2. Approve an additional appropriation of \$12,800 from the Equipment Replacement Fund to acquire an additional Mobile Video System for the expanding police fleet.

Executive Summary:

The Hermosa Beach Police Department (HBPD) currently operates 11 Mobile Video Systems (MVS) which are mounted to the interior of each patrol vehicle. The current MVS is over five years old and is based on outdated technology. HBPD also utilizes Body Worn Cameras (BWC), which are issued to all Police Officers and Community Service Officers. HBPD contracted with Axon Enterprises, Inc. for MVS and BWC for the past five years and the current contract expired in June of 2024. Staff recommends execution of a new five-year contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. at a not to exceed amount of \$482,647, which would include an upgrade of MVS and BWC hardware and additional Mobile Video Systems to keep up to date with the latest technology.

Background:

In 2018, the Hermosa Beach City Council awarded a contract to Axon Enterprises, Inc. for the purchase and installation of an MVS and a BWC system. The Axon Fleet 1 was installed in each of the patrol vehicles and are still in use. The Axon Body 2 (BWC) was issued to all Police Officers and Community Service Officers (CSO). The combination of MVS and BWC are very effective at providing video evidence of Police Officer and CSO contacts with the community. Video evidence is used to enhance criminal prosecutions and to investigate allegations of misconduct. Video evidence from MVS and BWC is frequently shared with other law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to assist in their investigations.

At its March 13, 2018 meeting, City Council approved the purchase and annual service agreement for the City’s current Axon cameras. The previous contract expired in June 2024 and the technology for both systems has advanced since the last purchase, requiring new software.

Past Board, Commission, and Council Actions

Meeting Date	Description
<u>March 13, 2018</u>	City Council awarded Axon Enterprise for the purchase of Mobile Video System and Body Worn Cameras.

Discussion:

Mobile Video System

HBPD utilizes an MVS by Axon Enterprises, Inc., which they call Fleet. In 2018, Axon was relatively new to the MVS market and developed Fleet 1. Axon Fleet has several features to activate the cameras automatically and minimize the risk of officers trying to activate cameras when they should be focused on potential threats. For example, when an officer activates their emergency lights, the Fleet cameras activate and do not require a separate activation by officers. Axon Fleet has been very successful in patrol vehicles, but is now more than five years old. Since 2018, Axon improved the design and technology and now offers Fleet 3. Fleet 3 can provide alerts, live-mapping, and live-streaming to supervisors during critical incidents. The most significant advancement of Fleet 3 is the integrated Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR). The ALPR technology of Axon would integrate with the Flock Safety platform which is the current ALPR system utilized by the HBPD.

To upload Fleet video from the vehicle to HBPD’s Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS), a dedicated router was purchased and installed in each vehicle. The routers Axon uses are Cradlepoint routers, which are near the end of their service life. In addition to the routers, the City purchased and installed a dedicated wireless offload server at the HBPD station. After Fleet video is recorded, it is stored in the router and later transferred wirelessly to the wireless offload server and then to the DEMS. The name for Axon’s DEMS is Evidence.com.

Over the last few years, HBPD experienced several issues with the MVS due to the natural wear and tear of the equipment. Staff recommends replacing the MVS and upgrading to Fleet 3. Staff also recommends the purchase of an ALPR license for each of the vehicles to be integrated with HBPD’s current ALPR system through Flock.

HBPD currently has 11 patrol vehicles with one MVS installed in each. Due to a national vehicle shortage and high demand for hybrid vehicles, City Council approved the purchase of four electric Chevy Blazers. With an additional vehicle being integrated to the patrol fleet, staff requests authorization for the purchase of an additional MVS not to exceed \$12,800 of the total cost included in the attached quotes (**Attachments 1 and 2**).

Body Worn Cameras

HBPD currently uses the Axon Body 3 BWC. Axon Enterprises, Inc. now offers the Axon Body 4 with improved features and technology. Improvements include fast charging, enhanced battery life, improved field of view, the ability to live-stream officers' locations and videos during critical incidents, and the ability for direct two-way communications between officers. Staff recommends upgrading HBPD's current BWCs to Axon Body 4.

Sole Source Provider

HBPD has relied on Axon Enterprises for over five years, experiencing exemplary responsiveness and supportive across hardware, software, technical support and customer service. Axon's integrated system, including Evidence.com and their Digital Evidence Management System, is critical for accessing, reviewing, and sharing video evidence. Key reasons for continuing the City's sole source contract with Axon are:

1. Seamless Integration and Compatibility:

- **Evidence.com:** HBPD has several years of video evidence stored on Evidence.com, which is regularly purged based on the established retention schedule. This platform is not only used by HBPD but is also the sole DEMS utilized by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office and the majority of South Bay agencies. This widespread adoption allows direct video sharing without the need to download or export to external media, saving significant time and effort.
- **Inter-Agency Collaboration:** Transitioning to any other DEMS would introduce additional time and complexity in sharing video evidence with other agencies and the District Attorney's office, hindering efficiency and collaboration.

2. Enhanced Officer Safety and Efficiency:

- **Axon Taser Synchronization:** HBPD issues the Axon Taser 7 to all officers as a less-lethal force option. This device automatically activates the Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) of every officer within 90 feet when deployed, a critical safety feature that allows officers to concentrate on immediate threats rather than manual activation of their BWCs. No other BWC on the market offers this level of integration with the Axon Taser.

3. Infrastructure and Cost Efficiency:

- **Existing Infrastructure:** HBPD already has the infrastructure in place to support the Axon Fleet system, including wireless offload servers. Extending the contract with Axon Enterprises means the City can avoid the significant expense and operational disruption of purchasing and installing new wireless offload servers.

4. Consistency and Reliability:

- **Proven Track Record:** Axon has demonstrated consistent reliability in their products and services over the years. Switching to a new provider would not only risk operational disruptions but also create redundancies and

potential complications in maintaining separate databases for video evidence.

Continuing the City's sole source contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. ensures HBPD maintains a seamless, efficient, and reliable system for managing critical video evidence. This decision is driven by the need to uphold the highest standards of operational efficiency, inter-agency collaboration, and officer safety.

Environmental Review

This agreement has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and as such, is not a "project" subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) 14 Cal. Code Regs Section 15378.

General Plan Consistency:

This report and associated recommendation have been evaluated for their consistency with the City's General Plan. Relevant Policies are listed below:

Public Safety Element

Goal 5. High quality police and fire protection services provided to residents and visitors.

Policies:

- **5.3 Use of technology.** Provide and use smart surveillance technology and communication systems to improve crime prevention and inform the community regarding actions to take in case of emergency.
- **5.1 Crime deterrence.** Regularly evaluate the incidence of crime and identify and implement measures to deter crime.

Fiscal Impact:

If approved, the proposed five-year contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. would begin in July 2024. The additional month of July 2024 is included due to the City's recent contract with Axon expiring in June 2024. The total charges for July 2024 would be \$32,787 and would be reappropriated from the FY 2023–24 budget into the current Fiscal Year 2024–25 budget to cover this expense. The first year annual payment is budgeted for Fiscal Year 2024–25 in the Police Department's Equipment Replacement Fund.

The new agreement includes all hardware, software, data storage, licensing, installation, training, taxes, and shipping and handling. Staff recommends the authorization of a sole-source five-year contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. to purchase equipment for the Mobile Video System and Body Worn Camera System, with initial payment of \$120,199 and annual payments of \$87,412 for years two through five, for a total contract amount of

\$469,847. Upon Council approval, the acquisition of the additional Mobile Video System, the total contract cost is estimated to increase by \$12,800 to \$482,647.

Agreement Request			
Contract	Request Amount	FY 2024-2025 Budget Dept. Account #	Total Contract Amount
Axon Enterprise	\$120,199	715-2101-4201	\$469,847
Additional Mobile Video System	\$12,800	715-2101-4201	\$12,800
Total	\$132,999		\$482,647

Attachments:

1. Axon Enterprise—Body Worn Camera Quote
2. Axon Enterprise—Fleet Quote
3. Axon Enterprise—Master Services and Purchasing Agreement

Respectfully Submitted by: Landon Phillips, Police Captain

Concur: Paul LeBaron, Police Chief

Noted for Fiscal Impact: Viki Copeland, Administrative Services Director

Legal Review: Patrick Donegan, City Attorney

Approved: Suja Lowenthal, City Manager