



Police Body Camera Update

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Body Camera History

- Police in the UK began implementing body cameras in 2005.
- In 2013 a study found that 1/3 of Police Departments deployed some form of Body Cameras.
- According to BJS in 2016 nearly half of the 12,267 police agencies in America were using bodycams.
- In 2020 legislation was passed in New Mexico requiring all police officers to wear body cams.
- Also, in 2020 there was legislation in Congress requiring federal law enforcement to wear body cameras.
- Mandatory body camera laws have been introduced in the Virginia Legislature.

Effectiveness

- A 2017 study in Washington, D.C., that examined more than 2,000 officers also found body cameras had a negligible effect on officer behavior. “These results suggest that we should recalibrate our expectations of [body cameras’] ability to induce large-scale behavioral changes in policing,” the paper stated.
- A 2018 study of 504 officers in the [Milwaukee Police Department](#), conducted by Lawrence and other Urban Institute researchers, found that body cameras had no effect on the likelihood officers would use force in the course of their duties.
- However, White of the DOJ’s body camera program said he has found that 11 of 19 studies on the subject have shown a reduction in use of force among officers wearing body cameras. “I think that’s still pretty strong,” he said.
- According to White, 20 out of 26 studies measuring citizen complaints and body cameras show a “sizable reduction” in citizen complaints against officers wearing body cameras. Lawrence’s research also shows decreases in complaints against officers.

How is Virginia Doing?

- As of the Fall of 2019, The Compensation board listed that out of 120 localities, 23 did not have BWC and 10 were unknown. Albemarle County was listed as unknown.
- Regionally Charlottesville, UVA, Waynesboro, Henrico and Richmond all deploy body cameras.
- It is estimated that at least 34% of the 370 police and sheriff's offices have body cameras.

Watchguard V300

- Uses existing platform, reduces cost and start up time.
- Has a 12-hour battery life. This was crucial since we currently work 10 hour patrol shifts.
- Real time integration with the current in car camera system.
- Lightweight at 6.8 ounces.
- Has the ability to recover video from days previous even when the camera was not in recording mode.

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Scope of Grant Implementation

In order to keep costs manageable, the scope was limited to officers with the most inherent risks and the highest frequency of citizen contacts. We determined that the following should be in the initial phase.

- Entire Patrol Division from 1st Sergeant down (58)
- Officers assigned to the Traffic Unit (5)
- Officers assigned to the K9 unit (5)
- Standalone units that can be checked out by POP, Investigations, etc. (5)



Initial Costs of Implementation for Grant

- INITIAL PURCHASE OF CAMERAS AND EQUIPMENT \$93,541.00.
- SERVICE COSTS FOR EQUIPMENT INSTALLATIONS BY EAST COAST CUSTOMS, \$17,400.00. (ESTIMATE BASED ON 5 HOURS PER CAR AT \$60 PER HOUR WITH 58 CARS.)
- TOTAL PROJECT COSTS \$110,941.00.
- WITH THE GRANT OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS \$60,941.00.
- \$50,000.00 FROM ASSET FORFEITURE.
- \$10,941.00 UNSPENT VEHICLE MAINTENANCE.

Additional Non-grant Cameras

- 21 new In Car Systems that were eligible for upgrades were trade in at a cost of \$500.00 per unit. Total cost is \$10,500.00 (Capitol Improvements Budget).
- 5 full In Car Systems to include BWC. These were already budgeted for in vehicle replacement spending. Additional Costs \$2,500.00 (Vehicle Replacement Budget).
- 28 additional BWC and conversion kits cost of \$45,157.00 (2019 unspent monies from the Capitol Improvement Budget).

Reoccurring Costs of Implementation

- Once implemented, we will experience an increase in our storage fees. Carl Stowell has estimated this at \$1000.00 a month. This is because our video storage will double within two months of implementation.
- Other agencies have seen FOIA requests triple after the implementation of Body Worn Cameras. In fact, they recommend hiring one person to manage the entire program. However, with the transfer of 1st Sergeant Woycik to OPS, he will be able to assist Ms. Wood in that endeavor.
- There is a yearly licensing fee of \$150.00 per camera. This accounts for software or firmware updates and upgrades.
- As we increase our department in size, the body camera can be added on to the in-car camera at a cost of \$500.00. This is a minimal increase to a product already included in the capitol outlay budget.

Moving On

- What happens next:
 - submit the grant application when solicitation opens.
 - The draft policy has been completed and discussed at the Policy Review Meeting.
 - The draft is currently at the County Attorney's office for review and approval.
 - Officers will need to complete a training session (virtual) that is provided by Watch Guard.
 - Finalize the deployment of the system. This process will be phased in and projected to go evening, daylight, and midnight.



BWC Implementation

- Cameras purchased from Grant - **58**
- New cameras that we have on-hand exchanged/upgraded to include body cameras - **21**
- Additional cameras funded through CIP funds - **28**
- Stand alone BWC's for Investigations and others also purchased with CIP funds - **5**
- Total scope and purchase of **112** units, **107** working with in-car cameras and **5** stand alone units with docking stations so officers and detectives will be able to sign out when needed.
- Board of Supervisor approval of funding for Grant on June 2, 2021, then purchase of equipment:
 - 8-week delivery on equipment then conversions by East Coast Customs will start mid-July.
 - Equipment installs will start with Evening Shift Patrol in mid-July (three vehicles per/week), next will be Daylight Shift Patrols in August, and Midnight Shift Patrols will begin in late October.

BWC Implementation

- Full conversion process and implementation occurring prior to January 1st, 2022.
- This timeline is contingent on East Coast Customs and how fast they can convert our vehicles, which can/could impact completion.
- Training will be occurring for each patrol shift and commonwealth attorney staff.
- Working with C.A.P.E. on media messaging and the announcement phase is completed.
Will conduct another media blast when cameras begin to hit the streets.

Resources

- 1) <https://www.wric.com/news/politics/capitol-connection/first-virginia-body-camera-law-coming-soon-several-departments-dont-have-them/>
- 2) <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/body-cameras-are-seen-as-key-to-police-reform-but-do-they-increase-accountability>
- 3) <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2021-06-07/justice-department-orders-federal-agents-and-officers-to-wear-body-cameras-on-the-street>