

## Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 22, 2020

**Subject:** Approval for Body-Worn Cameras, Contract Number 19P297

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 19P297, with Axon Enterprise Inc, for body-worn cameras (BWCs) for a five-year term in an amount not to exceed \$2,026,099.14

### Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Police Department Project Manager Leah Palmer presented this item. Cummings asked why it has taken this long to get to the point of signing a contract (discussions started a year ago) and once approved and signed, how long until the equipment is received and implemented and if there is a way to expedite procurement. Palmer responded that the vendor could have trainers onsite in two to four weeks. Metropolitan Council Procurement Director Jody Jacoby added that this procurement was satisfied using a cooperative procurement venture issued by Sourcewell and currently in final negotiations with Axon and the contract will be ready upon Council approval next week and can place an order the next day. Cummings asked if this is a normal length of time for contract negotiations. Jacoby responded that this is definitely not a normal contract or timeframe and that the body-cam policy wasn't approved until March and then there needed to be a collaboration between Procurement and OGC. Chamblis asked if there will be a way to identify if cameras are turned on in real time. Palmer answered that once an officer turns the camera on, a green light will illuminate indicating to show it's on.

Chamblis asked if officers enter a private home if parts of the video would be redacted and Cummings asked if we are anticipating needing additional staffing to respond to data requests for video. Palmer responded that yes, parts of the video would be redacted if officers entered a private home and MTPD would rely on the data practices act and this information will be in the body-cam policy that will be posted online. Palmer added that MTPD is looking to hire two video technicians that will help support data requests. Atlas-Ingebretson asked if Council members could receive before the Council meeting a timeline for implementation that shows milestones and responsible parties, including the procurement timeline to this point. Palmer confirmed staff will compile.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Cummings. Motion carried.

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: July 13, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 22, 2020

**Subject:** Approval for Body-Worn Cameras, Contract Number 19P297

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Council Expenditure Policy 3-3, Procurement of Goods and Services; Council Policy 1-3-2; Minn. Stat. § 626.8473; Minn. Stat. § 123A.21; Minn. Stat. § 471.345

**Staff Prepared/Presented:**

Lt. Joseph Dotseth, Administrative Lieutenant, 612-349-7269

Jody Jacoby, Director, Contracts and Procurement, 651-602-1144

Leah Palmer, MTPD Project Manager, 612-349-7232

**Division/Department:** Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD)

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 19P297, with Axon Enterprise Inc, for body-worn cameras (BWCs) for a five-year term in an amount not to exceed \$2,026,099.14.

### Background

1. On December 11, 2019, the Council approved the MTPD's BWC Policy and Procedures to be released to the public for comment.
2. On January 8, 2020, the Council accepted public comment on the MTPD's BWC Policy and Procedures at a regularly scheduled meeting.
3. On March 11, 2020, the Council adopted its MTPD BWC Policy (Policy 1-3-2) supporting the use of BWCs and directing the Chief of Police to adopt a BWC policy pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 626.8473. To carry out Policy 1-3-2, the Council needs to purchase BWCs for use by the MTPD.
4. In order to purchase BWCs, the Council's procurement process used a cooperative purchasing venture conducted by Sourcewell, a Minnesota Service Cooperative. The Council has statutory authority under Minnesota Statutes Section 471.345 to utilize such cooperative service contracts.

### Rationale

The Council's adoption of Council Policy 1-3-2 demonstrated its clear intent for the MTPD to wear BWCs. Purchasing the BWCs through Sourcewell allows the MTPD to obtain BWCs through a competitive procurement with the equipment and terms that it desires without having to hold a separate procurement.

## Thrive Lens Analysis

BWCs dovetail with the Thrive MSP 2040 plan's three principles, as well as the Equity outcome:

- Integration: “The Metropolitan Council is committed to integrating its activities to pursue its outcomes, achieve greater efficiencies, and address problems that are too complex for singular approaches.”
  - BWC footage can be shared with other Council departments such as the Office of General Counsel and Risk Management in order to coordinate legal and risk responses more effectively.
  - BWCs allow the MTPD to cooperate more meaningfully with other metro-area police departments as well as prosecutors to improve criminal justice outcomes.
- Collaboration: “Collaboration recognizes that shared efforts advance our region most effectively toward shared outcomes.”
  - Provides additional accountability for police interactions with the public which can increase trust.
  - Provide an additional form of evidence to our criminal justice partners such as other law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and the courts.
- Accountability: “For the Council, accountability includes a commitment to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our policies and practices toward achieving shared outcomes and a willingness to adjust course to improve performance.”
  - Create a data-driven approach to policy analysis and training needs in order to better serve the public.
  - Respond to complaints against officers using video footage that may aid in the assessment of a police conduct.
- Equity: “Equity connects all residents to opportunity...[by] engaging a full cross-section of the community in decision making.”
  - The proposed public comment plan brings the MTPD's policy out directly to the communities it serves by asking for input and hearing concerns in a multitude of formats.

## Funding

Funding for the BWCs will come from Metro Transit's General Fund and the Information Services budget.

## Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to implementing BWCs. With police reform at the forefront of many community discussions, BWCs have become a central part of increasing police accountability.