

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:

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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.