THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: December 12, 2023

Subject: Axon Enterprises, Inc. Equipment Purchase

Staff Resource(s): Chief David Zack and Captain Janice Hawkins, Police Department

Action Requested: Adopting a resolution authorizing the City Manager to authorize the Purchasing Manager to purchase equipment, licensing, warranties, storage, and support from Axon Enterprises, Inc., through the Charlotte Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (CCPA).

Background:

- The original contract was approved by City Council on December 8, 2020 for five years.
- The contract needs to come back to Council because the Axon contract requires changes to the in-car camera equipment.
- If the contract must be rewritten, it is prudent to make updates to the equipment and services and add any supporting technology provided by Axon to improve the transparency and accountability provided by this equipment.
- The current contract requires Axon to provide upgraded devices for BWC and In-car Cameras
- The licensing and support for the upgraded equipment are part of this purchase.
- Axon Air drone management software is being added to provide tracking and accountability.
- Axon Air tracks all supported drone flights and allows live streaming of video and direct upload of video into Axon's proprietary evidence management system.
- For better management, the components of the current contract will be purchased separately and include software support for the drone program through Axon Air. The BWC, Taser, Interview Rooms and Drone management purchases cover a 5 year term. The in-car camera purchases and support will cover a 7 year term to coincide with the vehicle replacement cycle.
- Axon is no longer available for purchase through the original cooperative purchasing agreement.
- All Axon products are currently combined in one contract.
- Alterations to any portion of the contract require new pricing for the entire contract.
- The purchase will be acquired through the Charlotte Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (CCPI).
- This purchase provides equipment, licensing, training, support, storage, and warranties for all Axon equipment utilized by the Asheville Police Department.
- The Axon equipment includes body-worn cameras, tasers, an interview room recording system, software support for the drone program, and in-car camera systems.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- This will be purchased through the CCPA which is an acceptable purchasing contract vetted by the City of Asheville Finance and Management Services Department.

Council Goal(s):

- Connected and Engaged Community

Committee(s):

- N/A

Pro(s):

- Transparency and safety are increased with newer equipment and technology.
- Continued partnership with the industry leader provides excellent equipment across platforms.
- Contracting before the end of the calendar year saves costs on an expected 15% price increase.

Con(s):

- Increased annual cost

Fiscal Impact:

- Funding for the first year of the original contract ($683,420) is available in the Police Department's operating budget. Due to the changes highlighted, additional funds ($183,344) have been identified and reallocated from within the Police Department's operating budget to fully fund the new contract ($866,764).
- Additional funding required to upfit vehicles with new in-car camera equipment ($103,738) was previously budgeted as part of the annual fleet replacement project and is available in the General Capital Projects Fund. Related funding for equipment licensing and support ($18,786) was already budgeted in the Police Department FY24 operating budget.
- Future years will be planned for during the annual budget development process.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve the City Manager to sign the Master Agreement and give the City of Asheville Purchasing Manager authority to sign purchasing agreements with Axon Enterprise Inc. for the Asheville Police Department's body-worn camera system, taser system, in-car camera system, interview room recording system, and drone management software.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE MASTER AGREEMENT AND GIVE THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE PURCHASING MANAGER AUTHORITY TO SIGN PURCHASING AGREEMENTS WITH AXON ENTERPRISES, INC. FOR THE ASHEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S BODY WORN CAMERA/TASER/IN-CAR CAMERA/INTERVIEW ROOM RECORDING SYSTEMS AND DRONE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville Police Department (APD) is at the end of 3 in a 5-year agreement with Axon for the Body Worn Camera/Taser/in-car cameras and interview room program; and

WHEREAS, the Axon systems used by the Police Department, Body Worn Cameras, Taser system, In-car camera system, and interview Room recording system, provide safety, transparency, and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the in-car camera portion of the contract needs revision and any changes require the entire contract to be rewritten; and

WHEREAS, for better management, the components of the current contract will be purchased separately and include software support for the drone program through Axon Air. The BWC, Taser, Interview rooms, and Drone management purchases cover a 5 year term. The in-car camera purchases and support will cover a 7 year term to coincide with the vehicle replacement cycle.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to sign the Master Agreement and give the City of Asheville Purchasing Manager authority to sign purchasing agreements with Axon Enterprise Inc. for the Asheville Police Department's body-worn camera system, taser system, in-car camera system, interview room recording system, and drone management software.

Read, approved and adopted this the 12th day of December, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney