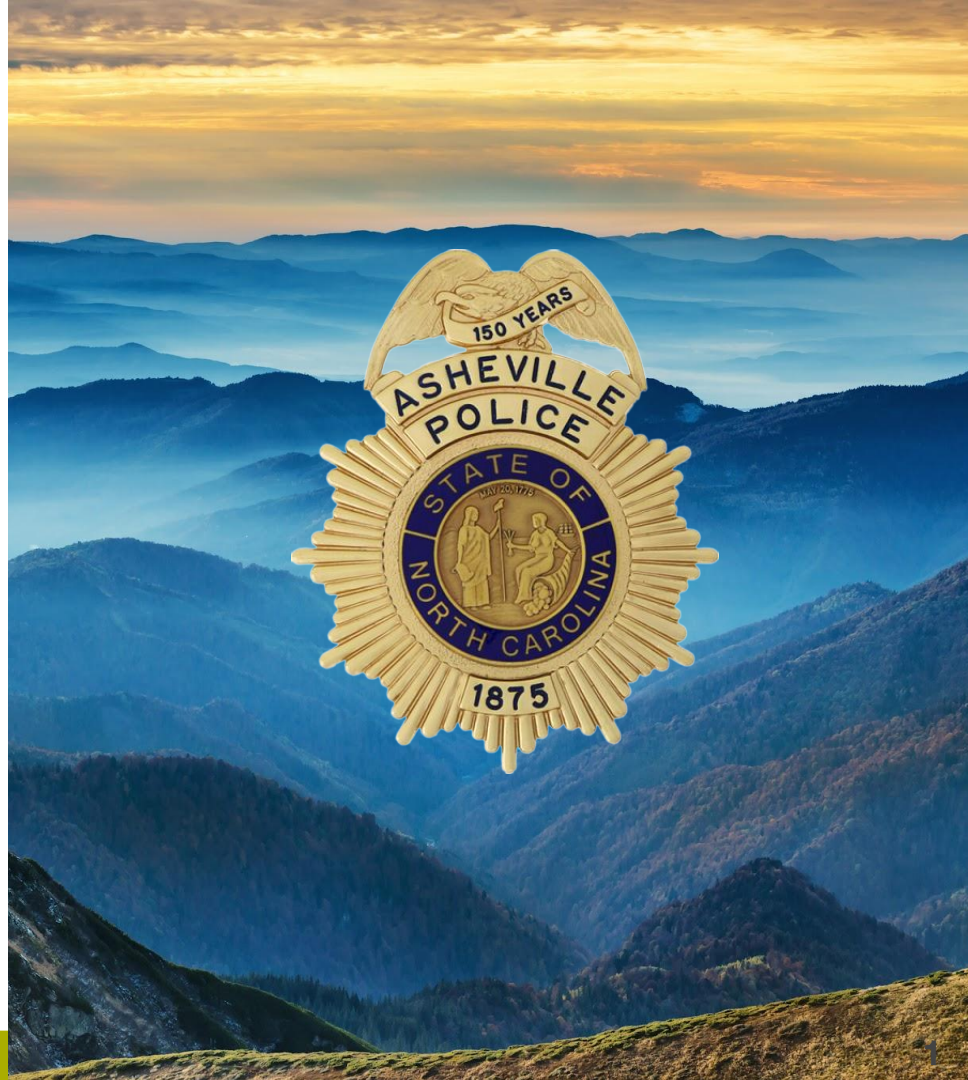
Community Project Funding Award & Axon Contract

Interim Chief Jackie Stepp
May 12, 2026



Community Project Funding Award (CPF)

Request

Funding for software, hardware, and equipment to implement a **Real-Time Intelligence Center (RTIC)**.

Funding Timeline

Original Application May 2024

FY25 request stalled due to year-long continuing resolution.

FY26

Resubmission

Application resubmitted for FY26

Secured Funding

$1,141,356.50

Secured in Appropriations Bill

APD Notified: February 2026

Funding Breakdown

Estimated Costs for RTIC

Physical Space

Investment required for the RTIC facility infrastructure.

Video Wall
TBD - Approximate cost is
$500,000

Fusus Software

Comprehensive digital intelligence platform:

- Camera Feeds
- Hardware & Implementation
- Live Streaming Capabilities
- Floor plan integration

$467,602

Remainder

Ongoing and miscellaneous operational expenses.

Brick & Mortar Costs

TBD - Approximate cost is
$173,754.50

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Ongoing Cost Breakdown

Current APD Respond/Fusus

The current cost is built into our Body Worn and Fleet camera purchase orders for our live streaming capability with our Axon and drone equipment.

Future full access Fusus

This funding will cover 7.5 years.

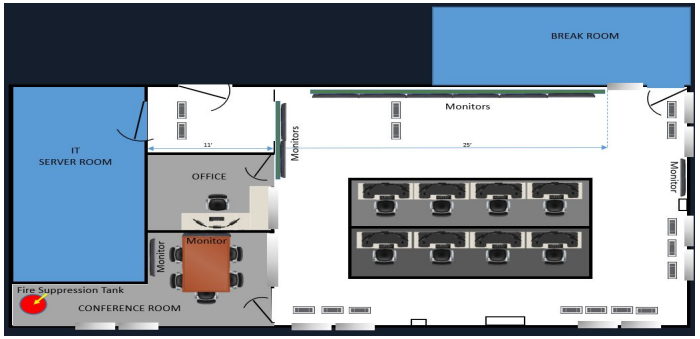
Additional RTIC Cost

Any additional future needs will be addressed through standard procurement process.

No additional staff is being requested to support the system.

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

RTIC vs. Fusus Comparison



RTIC (Physical Space)

Function

Uses real-time intelligence to direct and inform officers in the field. Acts as the "brick and mortar" hub for operations.

Role & Staffing

Staff coordinates law enforcement response to active crimes.



Fusus (Software Platform)

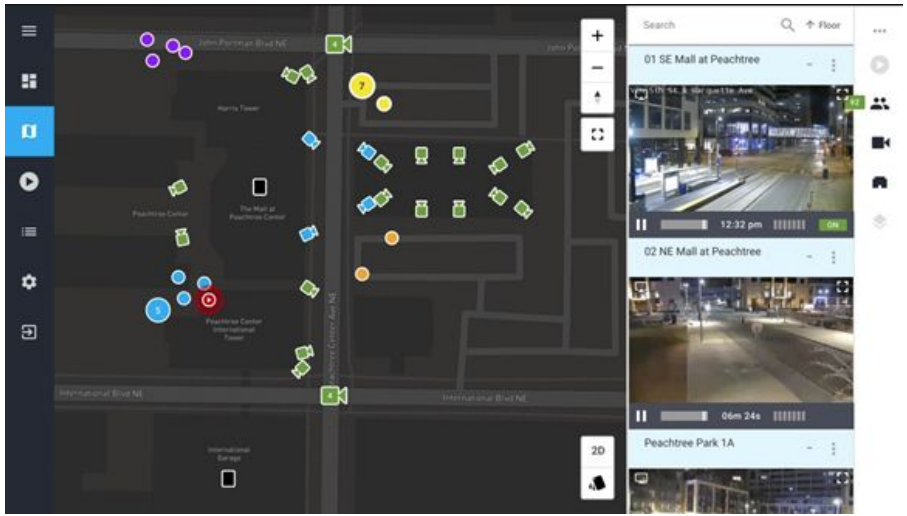
Function

Connects private and public cameras to the police network. A digital hub/interface for immediate situational awareness.

Role & Staffing

Aggregates data (video, maps, alerts) into one unified screen. As a tool, it requires no dedicated staffing of its own.

Axon - Fusus



Fusus isn't about watching people — it's about helping first responders get to emergencies faster, better informed, solve crimes more efficiently, and keep the community safer with *less* intrusion, not more.

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Fusus Definition: Registry vs. Integration

Registry Cameras

What it is:

A voluntary "map" of camera locations.

How it works:

Residents or business owners register the location of their cameras with the police department.

Access:

It does not provide the police with live access. If a crime occurs, the department can request specific video footage from owners in the area.

Integrated Cameras

What it is:

A real-time connection between a camera and the police department.

How it works:

This requires a small piece of hardware (often called a FususCore) to be plugged into the camera system.

Access:

Allows authorized personnel to view live video during emergencies for faster situational awareness.

Both are voluntary and can be revoked at any time

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Axon Fusus Does Not…

Data Privacy

Axon neither has access to or retains data from an agency's Fusus system.

Facial Recognition

Axon Fusus will pull in the video stream, if connected through a FUSUS Core device.

Fusus **will not pull in** the AI technologies layered onto that device.

Does Axon Fusus utilize artificial intelligence?

Axon Fusus utilizes artificial intelligence to rapidly search video provided to the system by users in order to mitigate criminal activity.

AI may be utilized to automatically recognize weapons, vehicle descriptors, and color descriptors.

RTIC Benefits

Faster Response

Provides real-time information for better decision-making during critical incidents.

Stronger Investigations

Captures objective evidence early, improving case outcomes and accountability.

Enhanced Safety

Reduces uncertainty in high-risk situations for both public and officer safety.

Strategic Focus

Addresses violent crime in high-impact neighborhoods and quality-of-life issues.

Force Multiplier

Acts as a multiplier, doing more with existing staffing and technology.

Oversight & Accountability

Built-in audit trails and reporting ensure transparent and responsible use.

RTIC Benefits: Objective Evidence

Meeting Jury Expectations

Juries increasingly expect objective evidence like video, which is seen as more reliable and unbiased.

RTIC helps capture and preserve evidence early, strengthening cases and meeting these expectations.

Support for Vulnerable Areas

Critical in high-crime housing areas where victims and witnesses may fear coming forward.

Allows cases to rely less on vulnerable residents and more on objective, reliable evidence.

Promoting Equity & Accuracy

An RTIC preserves video evidence early to identify suspects accurately and rule out innocent individuals, providing a safeguard against wrongful convictions in disproportionately impacted communities.

Other Real-Time Centers

RTICs are not a standalone solution, but agencies that have implemented them consistently show improved outcomes in response, case clearance, and targeted crime reduction efforts.

+5%

Violent Crime
Solving Rate

+12%

Property Crime
Solving Rate

+11%

Overall Clearance
Rate Improvement

Arietti, R. (2024). Do real-time crime centers improve case clearance? Journal of Criminal Justice.

Axon Contract Consolidation

Current State

APD's technology contracts are fragmented across multiple purchase orders with varying timelines, causing administrative complexity and financial uncertainty.

Key Risks:

- Costs rising to ~$1.24M by FY27.
- Significant coverage gap in FY29.
- Potential 20–30% cost increases due to inflation.

Consolidation Proposal

Consolidate three purchase orders into a single 7.5-year agreement for long-term sustainability.

Expected Benefits:

- Projected savings of over $4 million.
- Immediate enhancement of operational capabilities.
- Locked-in pricing protection against inflation.
- Stable, long-term technology roadmap.

Next Steps & Estimated Timeline

30 - 60 Days

- Community Project Funding (CPF) Award to Council May 12th
- Axon contract to Council May 12th
- Procurement process for construction and video wall
- Backup Center relocates
- Education Campaign

90 Days

- **Education Campaign:** This will be an ongoing effort
- **Construction Phase:** Full implementation activities begin

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Discussion/Questions

