

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 5

SUBJECT: SHERIFF- REQUEST TO WAIVE BOARD POLICY A-87 AND EXTEND CONTRACTS WITH AXON ENTERPRISE INC FOR BODY-WORN CAMERAS AND TASERS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

In today's modern policing landscape, body-worn cameras (BWC) and tasers have emerged as essential tools that enhance and increase safe public interactions with law enforcement, support police accountability, promote transparency, and improve incident outcomes. As law enforcement agencies strive to build trust with the communities they serve, BWCs provide an objective record of interactions, helping to ensure that both law enforcement officers and civilians are held accountable for their actions. Meanwhile, a taser, a handheld electronic device that uses an electric current to temporarily incapacitate a person, serves as a critical tool to help deescalate law enforcement contacts and potential uses of force. Tasers offer a non-lethal alternative for subduing individuals in potentially volatile situations, which allows law enforcement officers to effectively manage confrontations without resorting to deadly force. Together, these technologies not only bolster the integrity of policing practices but also foster a culture of professionalism and accountability.

In 2017, the San Diego Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) conducted an extensive solicitation, successfully awarded the BWC contract to Axon Enterprise Inc. (Axon), and began utilizing BWCs in its patrol operations. In 2022, it deployed the rollout of BWCs in the Sheriff's Office jail setting, expanding the program across the different facilities as infrastructure was implemented to host the devices. In 2005, the Sheriff's Office began procuring tasers from Taser International, Inc (TASER). TASER changed their name to Axon and since 2017, the Sheriff's Office has been utilizing Axon as its vendor for both tasers and BWCs. Law enforcement considers safety, standardization and interoperability when purchasing equipment. With constant technological advancements, law enforcement equipment is experiencing new developments that build on transparency, accuracy, and efficiencies, resulting in constant improvements to the standards and features of equipment. All the equipment, accessories and supplies requested for procurement have been tested and evaluated for efficiency, functionality, durability, and safety. Standardization of equipment and supplies offers the uniformity necessary for ease of training and inter-operational use within the law enforcement community, thereby enhancing the safety of Sheriff's Office personnel and the public.

Today's actions request the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) to waive Board Policy A-87 and approve an extension to the Sheriff's Office's two current contracts for BWCs and tasers with Axon to December 31, 2030.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SHERIFF

1. Waive Board Policy A-87, which requires competitive procurement of goods and services.

2. Authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to extend the contracts for the body-worn camera system and tasers through December 31, 2030 and an additional six one-month option periods as needed, and to amend the contracts to reflect changes and enhancements in product, service level requirements, and funding, subject to the approval of the Sheriff.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) can help improve equity in police interactions with communities by increasing safety, accountability, and transparency by guaranteeing a visual and audio record of police interactions and conduct. BWCs can provide an unbiased record of interactions between law enforcement officers and civilians, which can help build trust with communities. Tasers, as a less-lethal option for law enforcement, reduce the likelihood of fatal encounters, fostering consistency in the use of force, and enhancing community trust. Their effective and equitable use requires ongoing training, data analysis, and accountability mechanisms to ensure that individuals receive fair and just treatment in interactions with law enforcement.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed actions to acquire specific standard issued and special operations equipment for law enforcement purposes contribute to County of San Diego Sustainability Goals related to equity and waste reduction. Delivering public safety services with a consistency of configuration, training, safety, efficiency, and interoperability for everyone in San Diego County fosters trust and increases transparency. In addition, the continuation of standard equipment issuance reduces waste that would otherwise occur with agency-wide replacement of equipment to a different supplier each time a new contract is needed.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds of \$1,532,260 for body worn cameras (BWCs) are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan for the Sheriff's Office. If approved, today's request will result in additional costs, estimated at \$8,586,619, for the purchase of BWCs, maintenance, repair, training, software, and warranties from July 1, 2025 through December 2030. The funding source for the current year is the Asset Forfeiture Fund. Remaining contract years costs will be included in future Operational Plans for the Sheriff's Office. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staffing.

There is no current fiscal year impact associated with extending the Axon's Taser contract thru December 31, 2030. The Sheriff's Office will be upgrading tasers for an estimated total cost of \$14,000,000 and will be included in future Operational Plans as the Office identifies funding. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: Anderson

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter

