



MARIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 200, San Rafael, CA 94903

ROBERT T. DOYLE
Sheriff - Coroner
MICHAEL J. RIDGWAY
Undersheriff

May 10, 2016

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 329
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Authorize a sole source agreement with Taser International, Inc. for the purchase of 100 body-worn cameras, evidence transfer managers, accessories, digital evidence management software, access to unlimited cloud based data storage, replacement of existing Electronic Control Devices and AT&T cellular telephones.

Dear Board Members,

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a sole source agreement with Taser International, Inc. and authorize the President of the Board to approve an agreement with TASER International for the purchase of a body worn camera (BWC) system, including evidence transfer managers, digital evidence management software, access to unlimited cloud based data storage, accessories, and replacement of the existing Sheriff's Office electronic control device inventory. In addition, the Sheriff's Office is asking to surplus our existing inventory of antiquated 2G cellular Patrol Division telephones and to replace those phones with Apple iPhone platforms that will allow real time access to captured body camera video.

SUMMARY: The Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services to all of the unincorporated communities across Marin. Our specific area of operations spans the gamut from rural and sparsely populated ranching communities to large urban centers that provide a mix of residential and commercial development similar to that found in any of the other municipal jurisdictions across the County.

The kinds of daily interactions taking place between our deputies and the communities we serve help form the basis of the police/community relationship that's become so critical in providing effective police service to a

AREA CODE 415

24-HOUR NUMBER
479-2311

FAX
473-4126

ADMINISTRATION
473-7250

CIVIL
473-7282

COMMUNICATION
SERVICES
473-7243

CORONER
473-6043

COURTS
473-7393

EMERGENCY
SERVICES
473-6584

INVESTIGATIONS
473-7265

JAIL
473-6655

MAJOR CRIMES
TASK FORCE
884-4878

PATROL
473-7233

RECORDS
473-7284

WARRANTS
473-7297

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populace who's grown increasingly wary of the role law enforcement plays in their lives.

Community trust is the bellwether by which law enforcement agencies today measure their overall effectiveness and confirm specific policing strategies are meeting the needs of the neighborhoods / communities they serve. One way to enhance that trust is to ensure transparency and accountability in law enforcement operations, something that is today aided by the integration of body worn cameras (BWC's) in the patrol environment.

Since calendar year 2015, the Sheriff's Office has researched the practicality of operating a BWC system to record our interactions with the public. BWC's represent a technological advance in policing and help ensure the delivery of the kind of quality law enforcement service that's come to be expected by the Sheriff's Office and the communities we serve alike.

BWC's help promote legitimacy and a sense of procedural justice that communities have increasingly come to expect of their law enforcement officers. They enhance accountability and reduce instances of conflict and/or hostility because all parties to an interaction are aware their conduct is being recorded.

Recordings made by BWC's at crime scenes offer an additional tangible benefit by providing investigators, prosecutors and juries alike with detailed, accurate and compelling evidence recorded in real time that does not require additional interpretation or explanation to understand.

TASER International, Inc. has patented a body worn video camera technology system and secure cloud-based video storage platform that affords tremendous flexibility in capturing and storing data intensive video evidence in a virtual environment, without the need to purchase or maintain expensive, complex servers that have a fixed life expectancy and lack scalability. No other BWC provider is able to offer a similar system.

The Sheriff's Office has negotiated a 5-year agreement with TASER International to supply 100 body worn cameras and related charging / data transfer hardware. In addition, the Sheriff's Office will have access to unlimited data storage hosted by Taser in a virtual, cloud based environment.

Because BWC data is stored in that virtual environment, access to it can be provided, with proper permissions, from any Internet capable device, including smart phones and tablets. This added flexibility means deputies can track, label, and review captured video in the field using smart phone technology without needing to return to the station to download it to a desktop computer.

To use that feature, the Sheriff's Office will retire the inventory of antiquated 2G cellular telephones currently used by deputies assigned to the Patrol Division, replacing them with iPhone smart phones whose user profiles will be linked to individual Taser accounts that provide robust auditing tools to Sheriff's Office management.

Cloud based data access allows the Sheriff's Office to share its captured video evidence with other criminal justice partners, such as the Marin County District Attorney's Office, without need for Sheriff's Office evidence clerks to locate, copy, and transport specific data segments from the Emergency Operations Facility to other outside venues.

Testing has shown Taser's BWC system and its accompanying cloud based data storage solution meets our strict security needs and includes auditing software that tracks every instance of access, while preventing modification or deletion of stored data.

In order to secure this agreement with the Sheriffs' Office, which will be first of its kind in Marin, Taser International has agreed to apply a 20% discount to the purchase cost of equipment and first year data storage fees. In addition, and recognizing evolving technology will both improve video quality and miniaturize existing equipment, Taser has agreed to replace all 100 body worn cameras purchased by the Sheriff's Office one time during the initial 5-year contract period. They've also agreed to replace our existing and aging inventory of Taser Electronic Control Devices, eliminating the need to seek future County General Fund dollars to effect the same exchange.

FISCAL/STAFFING IMPACT:

The 1st year cost of the Body Worn Camera Program is anticipated to be \$205,807, which includes the 1-time cost of equipment and related data storage and cellular telephone service fees. The costs for Year 2, 3, 4, and 5 are \$189,440 each year, inclusive.

The Sheriff has agreed to use the Rural County Trust Fund (25058) to pay for the first 40% (\$365,565) of the costs associated with this Body Worn Camera Program. The General Fund will pay for the remainder of the 5-year contract costs.

It is recommended that your Board increase General Fund expenditure appropriations in the Sheriff's Administration (2600011400) by \$205,807, fully offset by increased transfer appropriations from the Rural County Trust of \$205,807. The Sheriff's Office will work closely with the County Administrator's Office in FY 2016-17 to ensure a timely transfer of funds, from the Rural County Trust, consistent with the agreed upon cost sharing agreement. The County Administrator will include ongoing General Fund costs in the FY 2017-18 Budget.

REVIEWED BY: County Administrator N/A
 County Counsel N/A
 Department of Finance N/A
 Human Resources N/A

SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert T. Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "D".

ROBERT T. DOYLE
SHERIFF-CORONER