



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr. Chief of Police

DATE: September 19, 2013

RE: Consideration ~ Application for State Farm Body Camera Grant

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City Police Department is currently seeking grant opportunities to enhance its technology/equipment program and increase the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Department. State Farm Insurance Company, through a Public Safety Initiative Program, is offering up to \$10,000 in grant funds to be used for the purchase of law enforcement body mounted camera equipment. Sworn officers would use this equipment while in the field for officer safety and accountability purposes. The Elizabeth City Police Department would like to eventually equip all fifty-nine of its sworn officers with body cameras. If funding is approved through the State Farm Public Safety Initiative Program, the Department could purchase a total of twenty body cameras and begin the process of equipping officers with this newly enhanced and highly beneficial technology. The body mounted camera equipment would supplement the in-car surveillance camera program that is already in place and provide another means in which to monitor police activities and ensure police officer safety.

ANALYSIS:

The Elizabeth City Police Department, in researching the State Farm Public Safety Initiative Program that offers funding for law enforcement equipment, determined that Taser International is the best source for body mounted camera devices. The *Axon Flex* camera, produced by Taser International, was found to be of highest quality and technical ability than other cameras surveyed. Staff members contacted other North Carolina law enforcement agencies including Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, Greenville Police Department, and Manteo Police Department and all agencies surveyed were extremely satisfied with the equipment and have issued it out to all sworn law enforcement members. The agencies surveyed reported that the equipment produces clear and concise video that can be used in court proceedings for prosecutorial purposes. The video always gives accurate and up-to-date accounts of

police officer interaction with the public and assisted Internal Affairs in reviewing conduct complaints. The Axon Flex body mounted cameras are \$499.95 per unit. The total cost for twenty units is \$9,999.

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their meeting of September 19, 2013 and recommends approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize applying for a State Farm Public Safety Initiative Program grant to purchase twenty (20) body cameras for use by police officers in the field.

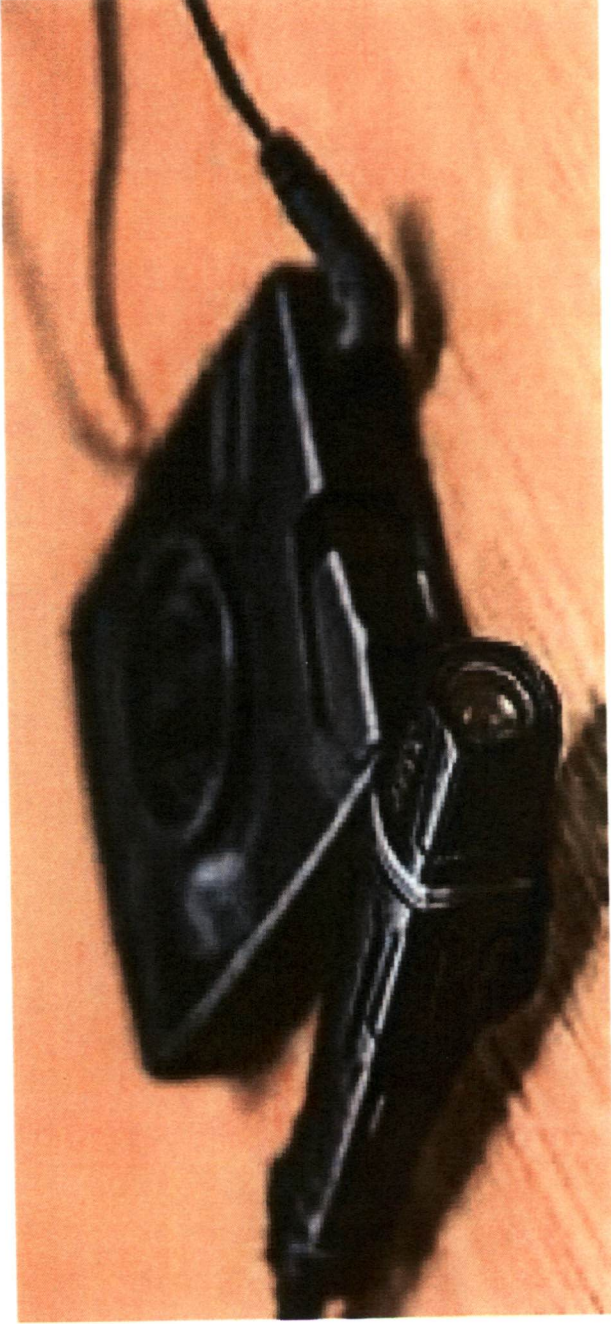


Image of Axon Flex Body Mounted Camera

