

Email Request

From: Vasudevan, Kriththika

Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:57 PM

To:

Subject: Follow-up on BWC

This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments

Hey Lt.:

Thank you so much for taking time to talk to me yesterday. Following our conversation, I had the following questions, which I was hoping you could help me with:

Tasers

How many Tasers, which have the capability of connecting with BWC, does the

Department need/want?

- Would the amount of Tasers requested cover all units: meaning patrol, custody, and other units? If not, which units in your above projection count would not receive Tasers, and why not?
- How much would the contract with Axon cost for that many Tasers?
- What is included in the costs, if the Department was to enter into said contract with Axon?
- Aside from the Tasers, does the Department need to do any other infrastructure/IT/etc. changes to onboard the Tasers?
- If so, how much would those internal costs be?
- If the contract was approved, and Tasers were purchased, how long would it take to onboard the Tasers and have them be used in the field?

BWC staffing costs

- How many people currently work in the unit? And what are their functions?
- How many PRAs have you received? How many people are tasked to work on those PRAs?
- How many other outside requests does the unit receive? How many people work to respond to those requests?
- How long, on average, does it take to process each of those requests? When you process these request- what does that entail?
- How many people are tasked with being technical liaisons to the Department? How many calls/emails/etc. do these technicians handle per day, on average?
- How many people are tasked with retrieving BWC during shootings? What are their tasks?
- Does the unit expect to expand in scope as to what it does beyond what it is doing today? If so, how?
- How many people do you project will be needed to handle this expanded scope?
- What is the cost to add this type of manpower to the unit?
- In addition to the staffing cost, are there additional costs or resources the unit needs going forward?
- How soon would you need additional staff?
- The unit is also conducting pilots/testing/research – does that encroach on the work duties that the staff already does? If so, how?

I apologize ahead of time if these questions seem lengthy or long-winded. Also, because of my ignorance in some of these areas, I may not have hit all relevant points, so please feel free to elaborate as you see fit. If it is easier to chat over the phone about them, please don't hesitate to contact me. There is also no rush to get me this information ASAP – if you could provide it to me by Feb. 15th or so, that would be great. If you need more time, please let me know.

Thank you again for your help – I really appreciate it!

Respectfully,

Kriththika Vasudevan, Deputy Inspector General
Los Angeles County Office of the Inspector General
312 S. Hill Street, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90013
(T)
(F)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents contains confidential and legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient. Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

From:

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 1:00 PM

To:

Subject: Fw: Follow-up on BWC

Here is the original request. She narrowed her request to only Taser information.

Thanks,

Lieutenant

Homicide Bureau - Body Worn Camera Unit

12440 Imperial Highway

Norwalk, CA 90650

Office:

Mobile:

Department Response

From:
To: [Vasudevan Kriththika](#)
Cc: [OIG/COC Requests](#)
Subject: Fw: Follow-up on BWC
Date: Thursday, March 10, 2022 11:33:38 AM

Good morning Kriththika,

Below are the responses to your questions regarding Taser, they are noted in RED. As requested earlier, we will review the staffing questions on the next BWC report.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything else.

Thanks,

Lieutenant

Homicide Bureau - Body Worn Camera Unit
12440 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650
Office:
Mobile:

This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly w th links and attachments

Hey Lt.:

Thank you so much for taking time to talk to me yesterday. Following our conversation, I had the following questions, which I was hoping you could help me with:

Tasers

- How many Tasers, which have the capability of connecting with BWC, does the Department need/want? **The Department is currently targeting approximately 7,580**
- Would the amount of Tasers requested cover all units: meaning patrol, custody, and other units? If not, which units in your above projection count would not receive Tasers, and why not? **The amount of Tasers requested would cover all patrol stations and bureaus, jail facilities, and Detective Division. Any other positions/units not receiving a Taser are considered administrative in function and are not a part of this count.**
- How much would the contract with Axon cost for that many Tasers? **The Department submitted a budget request to the CEO for Tasers in the approximate of \$15.5 million (both on-going and one-time funds) to include the contract with Axon and infrastructure improvements for the program. The budget request is shown near the bottom of this email.**
- What is included in the costs, if the Department was to enter into said contract with Axon? **The contract would include the Taser, Holster, and all the necessary support for the program such as instructor training, batteries, docking hardware, warranty replacement, virtual reality training environments for de-escalation and other real-world scenarios, training cartridges and stand-off/close quarters cartridges. Additionally, the contract would include Axon Performance, a tool used to evaluate employee performance with the body-worn camera system as well as provide detailed metrics regarding the use of the Taser 7.**
- Aside from the Tasers, does the Department need to do any other infrastructure/IT/etc. changes to onboard the Tasers? **Due to the current body-worn camera project, those current sites will require minimal infrastructure improvements as the work was already required for the implementation of that program. However, Custody Division sites will require some network and physical infrastructure improvements as their capacity for adding equipment is significantly limited.**
- If so, how much would those internal costs be? **See above. We have generalized numbers that are constantly changing and are part of the overall cost listed above.**

- If the contract was approved, and Tasers were purchased, how long would it take to onboard the Tasers and have them be used in the field? There are numerous factors that must be considered for deployment (i.e. available backfill overtime vs in-service training) in addition to the completion of infrastructure upgrades and product delivery timelines. So a time estimate cannot be made until those factors are known. However, generally, the deployment should be quicker than the BWC deployment if those factors line up.

<p>TASER Replacement</p> <p>Reflects the request for funding for additional personnel for the Taser Refresh Program. Taser is a tool used by sworn law enforcement officers in public protection situations to assist in controlling agitated or potentially aggressive persons and de-escalating situations. Over the past 5 years, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) has paid approximately \$2.1 million in settlement costs for lawsuits that may have had a more favorable outcome if tasers had been available.</p> <p>Employing a less-lethal force should be the first available option in a dynamic situation, for the safety of the public, law-enforcement, and mental health personnel. Many tasers used by the LASD have exceeded the suggested manufacturer's lifespan of 5 years, are inoperable, or will become obsolete in 2022. This is the result of a historically decentralized management and procurement of tasers due to lack of funding.</p> <p>This request will establish a centralized program that will synchronize tasers with the Body Worn Camera Program via their Performance Software licenses, thereby providing better accountability and transparency to the public while improving public safety. Further, combining these 2 technologies and tools will create efficiencies by reducing staffing and other overhead costs.</p> <p>Under this new program, approximately 7,580 Tasers will be distributed and will be assigned directly to personnel (unlike the current practice). This centralized program will leverage participation from 4 bureaus for efficiency including: Detective-Body Worn Camera Team, Fiscal-Central Supply & Logistics, Personnel Command-Training Bureau, and Custody-Training Bureau.</p> <p>Additional Staffing Needs: Detective Division, Body Worn Camera Team - 2.0 Operations Assistant II, 1.0 Sergeant, 1.0 Deputy Sheriff, 1.0 Information Technology Specialist II Administrative Services Division, Central Supply & Logistics - 2.0 Warehouse Worker I</p>	<p>7.0</p>	<p>\$ 15,488,000</p>
---	------------	----------------------

The Department provided OIG with all the requested information