

**TO:** Mayor Montgomery and City Council

**FROM:** Jeffrey L. McCormick, Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** Body Worn Cameras

**DATE:** January 31, 2023

### **BACKGROUND**

In the fall of 2020, the City Council discussed the replacement of the City server and a police department video server for the squad videos and possibly body worn camera (BWC) video storage. The discussion focused on the cost of BWC and if they were needed for a city our size. At that point the Police Department had issued each officer a BWC. Those cameras were our second generation of BWCs. The Cannon Falls Police Department added BWC in 2011 to our tools utilized. We were the second police department in the State to implement BWCs, with Burnsville beating us as a beta test site for Taser (now Axon) BWCs.

The City Council did decide that BWC were not something they wanted to get rid of, but we reduced the planned number from eight (8) to reduce the cost. With the Gen 2 BWC each officer had been issued a camera and we had a couple more that were spares or could be used by the reserve officers, for a total of twelve (12) cameras. Based on the discussion with the City Council for the Gen 3 BWC (V300) we reduced that total number of cameras to five (5) which at the time seemed like would work.

In practice what we have found is that five (5) BWCs does not provide enough BWCs during events or special details to allow each officer to have a BWC. While we have made strategic decisions about who would not have a camera, it is possible for any officer to be involved in an unexpected situation where BWC data would be invaluable. I would request approval to purchase three (3) additional BWC (V300) to provide the Police Department with a total of eight (8) BWCs as originally requested when the conversion to the Gen 3 cameras were planned. This system utilizes a docking and checkout platform which can house a maximum of eight (8) V300 BWC so no extra hardware would be needed for these additional cameras.

I have received a price quote from Motorola who acquired Watchguard for three (3) V300 BWC, mounts and 5 years of warranty and support, which is what we did on the existing V300 purchase. The cost for the three (3) additional V300 BWCs is \$8,892.00 which would be paid using forfeiture funds and not have an impact on the 2023 general fund expenses.

### **REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

Motion and approval authorizing the purchase of three (3) V300 cameras and 5 years of warranty/system support and updates for a \$8,892.00 as outlined above using forfeiture funds and authorize the Chief of Police to sign any documents required to purchase the V300 BWCs.