City of Grass Valley
City Council
Agenda Action Sheet

Council Meeting Date: May 10, 2016                                      Date Prepared: May 4, 2016

Prepared by: Alex Gammelgard, Chief of Police

Title: Presentation on Body Worn Cameras for the Police Department

Recommended Motion: Direct Police Department staff to move forward with acquisition and implementation

Agenda: Administrative

Background Information:
Over the past 18 months or more the Police Department has been researching and testing body worn camera options for deployment by Police Department staff. This process began with the creation of a body worn camera committee comprised of a cross section of police department officers, supervisors, managers, and support staff. The committee addressed areas related to:

- Body worn camera hardware
- Data management
- Policy

After extensive research as well as product testing, the decision was made to pursue Taser International’s AXON Body Camera as the camera of choice. An important aspect of that decision was based on Taser’s backend data management infrastructure, Evidence.com.

There are many products available on the market, many of which have a number of pros and cons when weighed against department needs such as: physical design and mounting; shift schedules; recording capacity; battery standby capability, and other factors. All devices have one thing in common – they record video on a daily basis and that video has to be managed. The management of gigabytes and terabytes of data must be secure, well designed, and accessible to department staff as deemed appropriate. In addition, sharing of the data must be considered as the data is evidence that must be available to the prosecution and defense in criminal matters.

In creation of the Police Department policy regarding body worn camera activation, the administration and Police Officers’ Association representatives met and discussed the merits of the policy. The policy, in its existing form, strikes a balance between the public’s expectation of on-officer video evidence collection with legitimate expectations of privacy in sensitive situations.
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On 04/28/2016 Police Department staff presented to the Measure N Oversight Committee regarding the aforementioned process and our process in determining a path forward for acquisition.

The presentation will provide additional insight into each of these areas.

Funds Available: Yes

Reviewed by:  

City Manager  Finance  Community Development

Account #: 105-5527-3039 (Measure N)

Engineering/PW