

CHARLOTTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEMO

TO: Mayor Lewis and City Council

FROM: Lisa E. Sherman, Chief of Police

DATE: July 18, 2017

RE: Questions regarding purchase of Panasonic In-Car and Body-Worn Cameras

In regards to the questions raised by Councilmember Bahmer at the July 10, 2017 City Council meeting, the following should clarify the necessity for the budgeted purchase of the Panasonic In-Car and Body-Worn cameras.

1. Age of current units? In-car cameras were purchased in 2007. This is at least 10 year old technology and software. The recording software requires manual retention processing maintenance one unit is out of service and in need of repairs (no warranty). Body-Camera's- We are on the 6th generation (replaced 6 times due to malfunctions or poor quality in manufacturing) of an original partial purchase from 2014. Those body-cams lack quality control and are not out of warranty. Body-cam software never worked with the in-car software in one cohesive package. We are constantly sending them back in for replacements, that warranty has expired.
2. Annual Costs? Software License- \$1,750.00 (5-In-Car), \$825.00 License renewal for Body Worn software. Total- \$2,575.00.
3. How much less storage does Digital Ally provide? Digital Ally does not have Cloud Storage options. Panasonic allows a hybrid of both Cloud Storage and on-site storage options based on our needs. This allows great flexibility in retention compliance and retrieval methods over time.
4. Is it feasible to purchase one piece of the hardware at a savings? The fragmenting of the equipment in this type of purchase is not an option we are interested in for several reasons. These components and their software should work together. Having different operating devices without a similar operating connection does not best serve our daily and long range needs. Officers should not have to go to one component and open the

software, download their evidence and place in one file and then go to another software program and download the remaining evidence to a separate folder.

Maintenance and troubleshooting of the separate components becomes cumbersome and time consuming. The point of purchasing updated products is to streamline a time consuming process that now does not work cohesively together. To have one case file with all evidence contained and ready to be presented to the Prosecutors office or City Attorney in one simple format is the ideal outcome of this venture.

We think it is of utmost importance in a world of perceived instant transparency, that our tools for the trade be the highest quality and of solid state construction and functionality with top notch quality control.

ComSource is the only local provider of this Panasonic Equipment.

Panasonic is making our department a showcase agency for the utilization of both the In-Car Camera and Body-Worn Systems. Much like they did with our in-car laptop/tablet Mobile Data Terminal equipment. Several other Michigan agencies are utilizing the Panasonic systems, or in the process of switching to them, but Panasonic have chosen our agency to be the showcase for their entire system. This will ensure us the best oversight on installation, training, and long term maintenance.