



BACKGROUND:

The purchase of body-worn cameras was discussed, and budgeted for, during the budget workshops leading up to the adoption of the 2020 budget. This was not the first occasion in which the purchase of body-worn cameras had been budgeted for in recent years.

However, in previous years, issues such as adequate retention policies, available and affordable storage, the ability to redact videos, and the technology of the body-worn cameras themselves prevented the purchase and implementation of body-worn camera technology.

Having addressed those issues leading up, or in the early stages of, 2020, the Valdez Police Department was well positioned to purchase and implement body-worn cameras in 2020.

After some research, it was decided that the Panasonic BWC was the right fit for the Valdez Police Department, in large part because they sync with the existing in-car video system and the videos seamlessly integrate into the back-end Evidence Management System. Additionally, in late September, Panasonic released a new iteration of their BWC that featured a removable battery and an LED read-out on the top of the BWC.

After the purchase of the body-worn cameras, the accessories, and the components that were necessary to allow them to sync with the in-car video system, much of the work fell upon the IT Department and Public Works Department to ensure that the system was installed correctly and operating as it should. Many thanks to the members of those departments, as deployment and implementation would not be possible without them.

It is important to note that the use of body-worn cameras was not forced upon the Valdez Police Department, nor were they identified as a panacea for poor police practice or deteriorating police-community relations. Rather, VPD recognizes and welcomes the use of body-camera technology as an additional tool in our commitment to providing professional law enforcement services to the City of Valdez. The trust of the community is paramount to us.

We are confident the implementation of body-worn cameras will build upon our history of community policing by highlighting our professionalism, while also instilling greater public confidence as we continue to hold ourselves accountable to the highest professional standards.





OBJECTIVES:

The Valdez Police Department has adopted the use of body-worn cameras to accomplish the following objectives:

- To accurately document statements and events during an incident
- To enhance the officer's ability to document police-public contacts, arrest, and critical incidents
- To preserve visual and audio information for use in current and future investigations
- To provide an impartial measurement for self-critique and field evaluation during officer training or coaching and mentoring sessions
- To enhance the public trust by preserving factual representations of officer-citizen interactions in the form of video and audio recordings
- To enhance the agency's ability to review probable cause for arrests

EQUIPMENT:

Each Police Officer has been issued (1) Panasonic BWC4000, (2) BWC4000 Replaceable Batteries, (1) at-home single dock charging station, and (1) BWC Kit that includes multiple mounting options.

Each patrol vehicle that is equipped with the Panasonic Arbitrator 360 in-car video system was updated to include new trigger boxes, and a single dock charging station. The wireless mics (\$600 each) previously used for the in-car video system were replaced by the BWC.

Inside the Police Department, there are (2) 8-bay docking/charging stations and (2) 8-bay battery charging stations. The docking/charging stations are co-located with the battery charging station in the Squad Room and the Lt./Sgt. office. The docking/charging stations are connected to the network and allow for the videos on the BWC to be transferred to the back-end server and retained there, while also charging the battery connected to the BWC. The battery charging stations are used to charge batteries not connected to the BWC.





TRAINING:

Prior to being issued a BWC, Officers were required to complete basic training of the BWC functions, demonstrate the ability to sync the BWC with the in-car video system, as well as read and acknowledge receipt of the Body-Worn Camera policy [Chapter 220 of the Valdez Police Department OPM].

POLICY:

The Body-Worn Camera policy is Chapter 220 of the Valdez Police Department Operating Policy/Procedures Manual (OPM).

The policy is consistent with policies from other agencies currently utilizing BWC's, as well as the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The policy will be reviewed on at least an annual basis and may be updated at any time. The policy, and any changes made to it, will be published and available for the public to see.







PURCHASE PRICE:

Quantity	Description	Unit Price	Total Price
12	BWC4000	\$ 882.00	\$ 10,584.00
12	BWC Kit	\$ 124.60	\$ 1,495.20
12	Magnet Mount	\$ 44.50	\$ 534.00
7	Charger Station	\$ 260.00	\$ 1,820.00
7	Antenna	\$ 75.65	\$ 529.55
12	Storage Bundle	\$ 121.25	\$ 1455.00
12	Protection Plus	\$ 144.00	\$ 1,728.00
1	Deployment Serv.	\$ 2,400	\$2, 400
1	Docking Station	\$ 1,799.00	\$ 1,799.00
12	Replacement Batt.	\$ 177.00	\$2, 124.00
			<mark>\$ 24,468.75</mark>
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10	CTB (Trigger Box)	\$ 274.00	\$ 2,740.00
1	Docking Station	\$ 1, 799.00	\$ 1,799.00
			<mark>\$4,539.00</mark>
12	Charger Station	\$ 289.07	\$ 3,468.84
1	Shipping	\$ 130.00	\$ 130.00
			<mark>\$ 3,598.84</mark>
1	Software License *	\$ 2,380.93	\$2,380.93
			<mark>\$2,380.93</mark>
1	Charger Station	\$ 315.00	\$ 315.00
1	Antenna	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00
1	Ground Shipping	\$ 58.38	\$ 58.38
1		φ 50.50	\$ 30.38 \$ 454.38
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2	Battery Charger	\$ 685.89	\$ 1, 371.78
1	Shipping	\$ 156.74	\$ 156.74
			<mark>\$ 1, 528.52</mark>
		TOTAL:	\$ 36,970.42
		IUIAL:	φ 30,970.42

* Software License paid by IT Department