


JUNEAU POLICE DEPARTMENT



MEMORANDUM

TO: Borough Assembly
FROM: Bryce Johnson, Chief of Police 
DATE: 11/3/16
RE: Body-Worn Camera Grant and Implementation

The Juneau Police Department has been awarded \$25,060 from the U.S. Department of Justice as part of their FY16 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program: Implementation or Expansion of BWC Programs for Mid-Sized Agencies. The awarded amount is already included in JPD's budget and does not need to be appropriated.

The grant requires a 50% match. JPD's application matched the awarded amount at \$26,826.30. \$7,466.30 of the required match is already included in JPD's budget as personnel costs for the staff that will be implementing the program. The remaining portion of \$19,360 is needed to assist in purchasing the equipment and is proposed to come from JPD's asset forfeiture account.

JPD will use the grant funds to purchase body-worn cameras (BWCs). The goal is to outfit 40 officers with BWCs to allow us to meet our operational goals of capturing factual interactions with the public; de-escalating situations to lower the rate of use of force; identify any structural issues within the department; lower the rate of unfounded grievances filed; save time and money on unnecessary investigations and lawsuits; document interrogations and crime scenes; identify training issues; provide high quality digital multimedia evidence to attorneys; and be accountable and transparent with the citizens of Juneau. Also included in the grant budget, is funding to send two staff to one mandatory national BWC Program and Implementation Program meeting at a date and location to be determined.

Throughout the two-year grant period, quarterly reporting will be required, on both financial and program updates.

The BWCs have a warranty of three years. In conjunction with purchasing the new equipment, they will also be placed on our equipment replacement schedule to be replaced every three years; however, as we find with a lot of our equipment, they generally last longer than they are guaranteed. After three years' time, the cameras will be evaluated for replacement determination and each year after until they need to be replaced.

One concern raised regarding BWCs is the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In the short term, JPD anticipates an increase in FOIA requests. These requests will be dealt with in a similar manner to requests for video camera recordings and audio recordings that already exist. A

"In partnership with the people of Juneau, our mission is to make our city a place where people can live safely and without fear.

policy already in effect dictates when and what records will be released and if needed, this policy will need to be updated to specify directions related to BWC recordings. An important step in implementing a BWC program is clearly informing the public and media of JPD's policy as it relates to releasing this information. Over time, the courts will need to determine how and when body-worn camera recordings will be released to different outlets, which will shape the future of our release of records policy.

Another concern is the storage for BWC recordings. JPD's digital storage was increased last year and the addition of BWC recordings does not impose any additional concerns to the capacity that now exists.

BWC recordings, similar to audio and other video recordings already utilized will be added to JPD's retention schedule, which will direct the length of time different types of recordings will be kept. Having a clear retention schedule will help with storage space and also with FOIA requests.