Report to / Rapport au:

OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE BOARD
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA

27 April 2026 / 27 avril 2026

Submitted by / Soumis par:
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SUBJECT: BODY WORN CAMERA DEPLOYMENT

OBJET: MISE EN PLACE DE CAMÉRAS PORTATIVES

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Ottawa Police Service Board endorse the continuation of work required to expand the use of Body-Worn cameras with AIEra Bundle through 2026 and 2027.

2. That the Ottawa Police Service Board provide delegated authority to the Chief of police to enter a contract with Axon with a total value of $27,210,338 net of HST for a period spanning June 1, 2026 to May 31, 2031 for body worn cameras and supporting hardware, and the AI era bundle of capabilities.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

1. Que la Commission du Service de police d'Ottawa approuve la poursuite des travaux nécessaires à l'extension de l'utilisation des caméras corporelles avec le pack AIEra jusqu'en 2026 et 2027.

2. Que la Commission du Service de police d'Ottawa délègue au chef de police le pouvoir de conclure un contrat avec Axon d'une valeur totale de 27 210 338 $, hors TVH, pour la période allant du 1er juin 2026 au 31 mai 2031, portant sur des caméras corporelles et le matériel connexe, ainsi que sur l'ensemble de fonctionnalités AI Era Bundle.

BACKGROUND

In 2025, the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) formally committed to the adoption of body worn cameras (BWCs) as part of its efforts to modernize policing operations, advance the Board's Strategic Plan, and respond to recommendations arising from multiple coroner's inquests, including the Abdirahman Abdi, Mathias Bunyan, Sammy Yatim, and London Police Service inquests.

As an initial step toward implementation, OPS launched a Body Worn Camera pilot project in 2025. The pilot equipped a select group of frontline officers with BWCs featuring advanced technological capabilities designed to enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Proceeding with the pilot was a deliberate and necessary measure. It reinforced the Service's commitment to transparency, accountability, and public confidence, directly supported the Mental Health Change Initiative, and addressed key recommendations from the Coroner's Inquest into the death of Abdirahman Abdi.

In parallel with the piloted deployment of 30 BWCs, OPS implemented Axon Draft One, a generative AI enabled report writing tool. During the pilot, this technology demonstrated strong potential to improve officer productivity and reduce administrative burden. Participating officers reported shorter report writing times, enhanced report quality, and increased time availability to respond to more calls for service and conduct proactive policing activities, contributing to the projected return on investment.

The pilot also successfully demonstrated the value of real time multi-language translation capabilities, which helps to mitigate communication barriers during interactions with the public. These tools improved service delivery and supported equitable access, including instances where translation features aided officers in assisting vulnerable individuals, such as an elderly person who was safely returned home.

In the fall of 2024, prior to the BWC pilot, the DEIMS project team completed a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to support the deployment of In-Car Camera (ICC) systems for OPS. This PIA included interviewing key stakeholders, reviewing project documents, policies, and guidelines, and producing a PIA consistent with the Information and Privacy Commission of Ontario framework. The PIA was developed by a third party and reviewed and approved by the program authority. No concerns were identified during this PIA that would warrant input or concern from the ICC. With the introduction of Body Worn Cameras through the pilot in the fall of 2025, the PIA was reviewed, updated, and republished to reflect the expanded digital

evidence collection processes, as the original ICC-focused assessment provided a suitable foundation for incorporating the BWC scope. Through this PIA updating process, no additional risks or issues were identified that were of concern or that would warrant consultation with the Information and Privacy Commission of Ontario. As such, this PIA has been adopted for the full deployment of BWCs as there are no new issues or risks to consider.

Across Canada, most major police services have now adopted body worn camera technology, reflecting its recognized role in strengthening public confidence and operational integrity. For OPS, BWCs represent a significant step toward enhancing trust and confidence, improving community safety, and increasing efficiency during calls for service. BWCs provide an objective, independent record of police public interactions, enhancing transparency and accountability and supporting use of force reviews, evidentiary assessments, and investigative quality. Beyond reductions in administrative workload and improved call response efficiency, BWCs also contribute to accurate and reliable evidence collection.

Community engagement conducted throughout the pilot generated valuable feedback that continues to inform program design, policy and implementation.

Following the positive outcomes of the pilot, OPS has initiated planning to equip all frontline uniform officers with BWCs by the end of 2027. This proposed expansion of approximately 850 additional devices, and support of such through 2031, would establish BWCs equipped with leading edge technology as standard frontline equipment.

This report summarizes the benefits realized and lessons learned through the pilot and outlines the expanded scope, objectives, and anticipated outcomes of the BWC program. The recommendation to proceed with a broader service wide rollout through the approval of a contract with Axon is informed primarily by the findings outlined in *Document 1 – Benefits Realization Details*. These findings not only support expanded deployment but also provide guidance on how that deployment should be structured and governed.

As of April 2026, the 30-camera pilot remains operational, with participating officers continuing to use the technology in daily policing activities. The pilot has produced sufficient operational, financial, and community engagement data to support a decision regarding broader deployment. Approving this report and allowing for the advancement of the program enables OPS to build on a proven pilot while incorporating lessons learned into a structured, sustainable, service wide implementation.

DISCUSSION

Body worn cameras are now widely used by police services across Ontario and Canada, with demonstrated benefits for both law enforcement and the communities they serve. The advantages of this technology are well established and include the following:

- **Transparency:** BWCs capture an objective audio and visual record of police public interactions, supporting procedural fairness during calls for service.
- **Accountability:** Recorded footage enables supervisory review to assess adherence to professional standards and duty of care.
- **Enhanced Evidence Collection:** High quality recordings strengthen investigative outcomes and support court proceedings.
- **Training and Performance Evaluation:** Video footage provides valuable material for reinforcing best practices and identifying opportunities for improvement.
- **De-escalation:** Research and operational experience indicate that BWCs can contribute to reduced conflict and escalation by promoting accountable behaviour among all parties.
- **Protection for the Public and Officers:** BWCs provide an impartial account of events, helping to resolve complaints efficiently.
- **Objective Documentation:** Video evidence reduces ambiguity in incident reporting and enhances the accuracy of documentation.
- **AI Enabled Transcription and Reporting:** Audio and video captured by BWCs are transcribed within the Digital Evidence and Information Management System (DEIMS), supporting AI assisted report writing, faster form completion, and efficient digital redaction.
- **Court Ready Redaction:** AI Assisted redaction tools support consistent, efficient redaction processes for disclosure purposes with significantly less manual effort.
- **Language Translation:** BWCs can detect and translate more than 50 languages. During the pilot, this feature successfully supported multilingual communication with the public, enhancing safety, accessibility, and service delivery.
- **Real Time Video Streaming:** During major incidents, BWCs can transmit live footage with audio to the Real Time Operations Centre, improving situational awareness and supporting informed operational decision making.

- **Data Security and Integrity:** Axon Evidence.com successfully completed an internal IT security audit in 2022 prior to implementation. The assessment included a data classification review and an examination of the manufacturer's SOC 2 report. The OPS Evidence.com environment is hosted in the Azure Canada cloud and remains solely owned and controlled by OPS. Should OPS choose to discontinue the use of Evidence.com in the future, all data remains fully retrievable by OPS in alignment with the OPS Data Governance Policy. In this instance, all OPS data would be removed from the Azure Canada cloud and held by OPS only.
- **Alignment with the Abdirahman Abdi Coroner's Inquest Jury Recommendations:** During the Abdirahman Abdi Coroner's Inquest the Coroner's Jury recommended that the Ottawa Police Service recognize the important role of Body Worn Cameras in supervisors' review of Use of Force incidents, in assessing the effectiveness of Use of Force and deescalation training, and as learning tools to support continuous improvement. The jury also recommended consultation with the Mental Health Advisory Council and the Community Equity Council on the use of Active Bystander for Law Enforcement (ABLE) training materials, including the integration of evaluation mechanisms such as scenario-based assessments and BWC supported performance supervision. Expanded deployment of BWCs directly supports these recommendations by enabling consistent supervisory oversight, evidence-based evaluation of training outcomes, and reflective learning grounded in real world interactions. The expanded deployment responds to these recommendations.

Beyond these documented benefits, police services that have implemented BWCs with supporting AI tools on a broad basis report measurable time savings and productivity gains. These efficiencies contribute to improved response times, cost avoidance, enhanced quality control and compliance, operational effectiveness, improved customer service, increased officer safety, and stronger overall community outcomes.

OPS Pilot Deployment of BWCs

As noted, the Ottawa Police Service initiated a Body Worn Camera pilot deployment in November 2025. The pilot involved the issuance of 30 BWCs to selected frontline officers, including members of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and designated Mental Health Change Initiative (MHCI) Change Agents. Change Agents are officers who volunteer as internal resources to promote positive behavior within the service. All participating officers were actively engaged in frontline duties and responded to calls for service throughout the pilot period.

The deployment of BWCs to CIT officers—who form part of the Alternative Mental Health Support Initiative—was particularly significant in advancing the implementation of recommendations from the Abdirahman Abdi Inquest, specifically those related to police interactions with individuals experiencing crisis.

Officers participating in the pilot continue to use the BWC technology in their daily operations, including advanced features such as Axon Draft One and automated language translation capabilities.

Document 1, attached to this report, provides a detailed overview of the lessons learned through the pilot, as well as the preliminary benefits realized and the return on investment achieved to date. A summary of these findings is presented below.

Benefits Realization and Return-On-Investment:

The pilot successfully met all stated objectives and demonstrated that the overall deployment approach was effective. The project delivered operational body-worn camera technology, integrated training, and supporting processes within the planned timeframe, while fostering strong collaboration among sworn members, civilian staff, and community stakeholders. The deployment confirmed that BWCs can be reliably integrated into daily frontline operations and that, once stabilized, the technology performs as intended, meets operational requirements, and enhances service delivery to the community.

A structured benefits realization, return-on-investment, and lessons-learned assessment was undertaken, including a member survey that achieved a 65 per cent response rate and a facilitated feedback session. The results were overwhelmingly positive. All respondents rated the deployment as either good or excellent, and all indicated a desire to continue using BWCs. The adjusted Net Promoter Score for recommending BWC use was effectively 100 per cent, reflecting strong internal support for continued and expanded deployment. At a high level, officers reported the following key benefits:

- Improved report-writing quality.
- Reduced administrative delays, enabling officers to return to frontline duties more quickly and improving call response times.
- Higher-quality reports resulting from AI-enabled transcription and drafting tools, further reducing post-call administrative time; and
- Enhanced communication with residents who do not speak English or French using BWC language-translation features.

Community feedback was collected via public survey and community outreach. For instance, there was a public survey conducted in the Fall of 2024, a presentation to

the Community Equity Council (CEC) in the Fall of 2024 and another presentation to the CEC again in 2025 when the pilot was being considered. In all cases, the public feedback received emphasized the importance of establishing clear, approved policies to support the consistent and accountable use of BWCs and AI-assisted reporting tools. Community members expressed strong support for the continued and expanded use of BWCs, while underscoring the expectation that appropriate governance, oversight, and guidelines be in place.

The implementation of policies ; 8.22 In Car Camera and Automatic License Plate Reader Policy, 8.23 Body Worn Camera (BWC) Policy, and 8.24 Draft One Policy at the outset of the pilot, in addition to existing policies for digital data, helped reassure community members that appropriate accountability measures were embedded within the program, contributing to increased confidence and trust. Community participants also voiced strong support for the multi-language translation capabilities, recognizing their positive impact on serving Ottawa's diverse population.

Detailed return-on-investment (ROI) calculations are provided in the Appendix (Document 1). Note that the benefits described accrue only when considering the BWC deployment together with the AI Era Bundle and would not be achieved with a BWC-only deployment. In summary, the 30 BWCs deployed during the pilot generated an estimated annual ROI of 104 per cent, with a payback period of approximately 5.9 months. When forecasted for an expanded deployment of approximately 850 additional BWCs, the projected ROI is 61.5 per cent, with an estimated annual payback period of 7.4 months.

The lower projected ROI for the expanded deployment is driven by conservative assumptions, particularly regarding the productivity of existing Axon Fleet 3 in-car camera and ALPR systems, which already deliver value through advanced capabilities embedded in current DEIMS devices.

As these benefits do not scale linearly with the number of BWCs deployed, productivity gains are not duplicated in the broader rollout calculations. Officer hour efficiencies realized through the program will result in significant productivity gains which are expected to translate into improved response times, higher clearance rates, and enhanced overall service to the community.

Benefit Category	Annual Value 30 BWC (Hrs)	Annual Value 850 BWC (Hrs)
Report writing efficiency value	**2,250**	**63,750**
Transcription efficiency value	**2,625**	**74,375**
Redaction efficiency value	**5,250**	**5,250**
ICC Fleet 3 productivity	**5,000**	**5,000**
Total Annual Benefits	**15,125**	**148,375**

Summary Item	30 BWC Deployed (Hrs)	850 BWC Additional (Hrs)
Annual Benefits:	**15,125**	**148,375**
Annual Cost:	**$592,868**	**$7,349,233**
Annual Net Benefits:	**7,715**	**56,509**
Return on Investment (ROI)	**104.1%**	**61.5%**
Annual Payback:	**5.9 months**	**7.4 months**

The ROI and Annual Payback provide positive indicators that the investment in BWC not only provides benefits with respect to the level of services provided to the City of Ottawa but will generate efficiency gains with the return of more officer hours to core policing duties to make this a sound investment.

Beyond the return-on-investment and these noted benefits, the following benefits were observed during the pilot:

Alignment with the Ottawa Police Service Board Strategic Plan

Advancement of the contract with Axon and wider distribution of BWCs is noted in,

and aligned with the Ottawa Police Service Board Strategic Plan. Specifically, BWCs are identified as a key project under the “Building Trust Through Strong Partnerships” pillar of the strategic plan.

Alignment with the DRIVE2 Strategy:

BWCs align with the OPS DRIVE2 Strategy by translating organizational commitments to equity, transparency, accountability, and continuous learning into everyday policing practice. By creating an objective, contemporaneous record of police–public interactions, BWCs promote consistent and fair treatment, support clear communication, and reduce reliance on subjective recollection. They embed transparency as a routine operational feature, allowing the Service to demonstrate procedural fairness and professionalism in real time. BWCs strengthen accountability through structured supervisory review, audit trails, and disciplined access controls that protect both public trust and officer due process. Equally important, BWC footage supports continuous learning and professional development by enabling evidence-based coaching, training, and early identification of risk or performance trends. Together, these capabilities support officers, enhance responsible leadership, and align daily operations with governance expectations—reinforcing public confidence by ensuring that OPS values are not only articulated, but consistently observed in practice.

Beyond this, implementation of BWC and AI multi-language translation together address two action items:

- Action item 1.15: OPS will implement a virtual multi-language translation services application to improve communication between police and community members
- Action item 1.16 OPS will implement in-car cameras in police vehicles and pilot body-worn cameras with officers to enhance transparency, safety, and accountability in police–public interactions.

Alignment of a Body Worn Camera Program (with Axon AI ERA Bundle) to a Digital Policing Modernization Strategy

The implementation of a Body Worn Camera program, supported by the Axon AI ERA bundle, directly advanced the objectives of a Digital Policing Modernization Strategy and addressed needs for a modern, digitally enabled police service able to maximize data insights, enable efficient and accountable frontline operations, and support improved service delivery to the public.

The Axon AI Era Plan is a bundled subscription that provides the Service with access to Axon’s current and future artificial intelligence–enabled tools intended to

reduce administrative workload, improve evidence management, and support timely, informed decision-making. The bundle includes AI-assisted report drafting that produces first-draft narratives from body-worn camera audio, unlimited automated transcription and translation of audio and video evidence, AI-generated summaries and identification of key moments within digital evidence, and automated detection of persons within video files. It also includes Smart Capture functionality for extracting driver's licence data in the field, AI-powered metadata suggestions to address gaps when records are incomplete, an AI voice assistant integrated with body-worn cameras to support real-time translation and guidance, and an AI-enabled policy search tool that allows officers to quickly access and verify Service policies. In addition to these existing capabilities, the AI Era Plan includes access to future AI-powered tools released by Axon during the subscription term, subject to Service oversight and governance. In short, the Axon AI Era bundle combines report writing, transcription, translation, evidence review, data capture, metadata automation, and policy guidance into one evolving AI subscription tied directly into the Axon Evidence ecosystem.

Pairing BWC with AI Era tools is essential to unlocking the value of the technology investment as AI enables officers to focus on core police functions by automating routine tasks.

Modern Digital Infrastructure and Data Enablement

The Ottawa Police Service requires upgraded digital infrastructure, analytics tools, and improved data governance to support operational and organizational outcomes. A BWC program contributes significantly by generating consistent, high-quality digital evidence and leveraging a secure cloud-based platform with automated transcription, redaction, and metadata tagging and enabling the use of Artificial Intelligence to assist officers to draft reports more quickly and completely. The AI tools also provide multi-language translation. These capabilities directly support the goal of modernizing platforms and expanding data capabilities across the Service, improving overall data quantity and availability, and allowing for enhanced analytics.

Enhancing Transparency, Accountability, and Public Trust

Improving resident interactions and strengthening transparency are identified as key outcomes of digital modernization. BWC deployment provides an objective record of police public interactions, supporting both accountability processes and public confidence in policing services. AI-enabled review tools further assist in Professional Standards oversight, training optimization, and early identification of risk trends—directly supporting improved service delivery and governance.

Operational Efficiencies and Long-term Financial Sustainability

The OPS must create operational efficiencies and long-term cost savings as part of the modernization effort. The AI-driven features of the Axon ERA platform—including automated redaction, transcription, video search, and case preparations substantially reduce administrative workload and streamline disclosure and investigative processes. These efficiencies support the Service's broader efforts to modernize workflows and align with the Board's commitment to financial sustainability.

Support for Evidence-Based Decision-Making

There is a need for timely, data-informed decision-making. BWC systems supported by AI analytics enhance investigative quality, enable more consistent evidence collection, and provide insight into frontline operations, ultimately contributing to stronger evidence-based practices and improved organizational learning.

Integration with Multiyear Planning and Lifecycle Management

The Ottawa Police Service requires a multi-year digital modernization plan with defined financial and lifecycle considerations. The Axon ecosystem offers predictable multi-year pricing, integrated lifecycle management, and clear cost forecasting, supporting alignment with a Digital Policing Modernization plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan.

Pilot Lessons Learned

The pilot implementation identified several strengths that should be replicated in any expanded deployment, including strong collaboration between sworn and civilian personnel; high-quality training delivery (both CPKN and in person) to support adoption; resolving known technology issues prior to deployment to ensure reliable performance; and promoting BWCs as accountability, investigative, and learning tools to maximize benefits and uptake.

The pilot also identified challenges and key considerations that should be addressed in a broader rollout. These included early technology instability during training; the need for a scalable and sustainable training model; recognition that a Service wide rollout will require expanded governance, staffing, and project supports; and the importance of finalizing stable technology configurations before training begins. Additional considerations include the need to enhance the training program (including supervisor training and a train-the-trainer model), early facilities planning and infrastructure coordination, streamlined scheduling and task management, timely policy updates aligned with deployment, dedicated technical and superuser support, and comprehensive change management and internal communication. Officers emphasized that all members issued BWCs must complete comprehensive

training, with in-person training identified as critical to effective use.

The BWC 2025 pilot is considered a success and provides a validated baseline for the next phase of deployment. The documented benefits realized, the positive ROI, and lessons learned in this report are intended to guide project governance, inform decision making, and support a structured, sustainable, and well supported expansion of BWCs across OPS.

Next Steps

To ensure successful expansion of BWCs beyond the initial deployment of 30 BWCs, OPS will proceed immediately to prepare the deployment of the additional 850 BWCs. Following negotiations with Axon, a proposed contract for consideration of the Board has been identified and delegated authority is being sought to enter into this five-year contract is being sought. If approved, additional steps include:

1. Stand-up of a deployment project team. Preliminary estimates include a team of existing and budgeted for civilian (5-6) and with part time support from existing and funded sworn resources as needed.
2. Completion of project governance (Charter, Project Plan etc.)
3. Procurement of additional BWCs and supporting components.
4. Training and distribution of equipment (165 per quarter through the end of 2027).
5. Continued community engagement and education.
6. Monitoring benefits realization and return-on-investment and reporting on such back to the Board on a quarterly basis beginning in September of 2026.

CONSULTATION

In advance of and throughout the Body Worn Camera (BWC) pilot, the Ottawa Police Service undertook extensive outreach and consultation. Meaningful community engagement will remain a core component of any future expansion of the BWC program.

The pilot was guided by the OPS Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) framework to support biasfree, transparent, and community focused policing. The OPS EDI Lens Toolkit was applied to assess potential impacts on diverse communities, identify systemic barriers, and promote fair and informed decision making throughout the project lifecycle. This work aligned with OPS's broader EDI Action Plan and DRIVE2 Strategy, reinforcing commitments to equitable service delivery, inclusive organizational culture, and strengthened public trust.

Engagement with the Community Equity Council (CEC) and other advisory bodies ensured that lived experience and intersectional perspectives informed both the design and

implementation of the pilot. The initiative was also assessed for compliance with human rights obligations, including the Ontario Human Rights Code and OPS Human Rights and Racial Profiling policies. Ongoing, data informed monitoring supports continued accountability as the BWC program evolves.

As part of this engagement, the BWC team presented and demonstrated the technology at the Human Rights Learning Forum (Fall 2025), the Mental Health Advisory Council (February 2026), and the Community Equity Council (February 2026), including members of the Use of Force Review Panel. These sessions generated valuable feedback, particularly regarding the importance of multilingual capabilities and expanding language libraries to better serve Ottawa's diverse communities. Input from these consultations has informed planning for expanded deployment.

Beyond this, and when consulted, the Crown's Office advised that it is satisfied with the Ottawa Police Service's implementation of Body-Worn Cameras and AI-assisted "Draft One" reporting, noting the presence of appropriate safeguards, including clear and accurate labelling of any reports prepared with the assistance of AI. While there are currently no reported court decisions specifically addressing Draft One reporting, the Crown has been actively consulted throughout OPS's implementation and continues to provide guidance. From a prosecutorial and evidentiary perspective, BWC technology is well-established within the justice system and is routinely used and relied upon by courts. The Crown reports that judicial response to BWC evidence has been very favourable, describing it as a highly effective evidentiary tool that has enhanced prosecutions and contributed to increased transparency and public confidence in the justice system.

For transparency, the Draft One AI software adds a disclaimer and requires the reporting officer to review, edit as needed, and submit the final report with the disclaimer included. The disclaimer confirms that the report was generated using Draft One AI, that the officer has carefully reviewed the draft, made any necessary changes, and believes the final report accurately reflects their recollection of the reported events.

On March 25, 2026, OPS provided the Policy and Governance Committee with an update on the BWC pilot and advised the Committee on the desire to proceed with a broader roll-out of BWCs across the Service. To support this broader roll-out the Service provided details that came out of a benefits realization and return-on-investment post-pilot exercise. Feedback provided by the Committee based on questions and concerns have been incorporated into this report and will be considered as part of any effort to roll-out BWCs on a broader basis moving forward.

Looking forward, and consistent with the mandate of the Community Equity Council Use of Force Review Panel, the BWC project team will support periodic summaries and, where

appropriate and consistent with privacy and operational requirements, the presentation of BWC footage related to Use of Force incidents for panel review. This process is intended to enhance transparency, support informed dialogue, and provide additional context regarding police interactions and frontline decision making.

The Panel's role remains advisory and focused on organizational learning and continuous improvement. It does not replace or interfere with existing investigative, disciplinary, or oversight processes, but contributes to broader discussions related to policy development, training, systemic issues, and public confidence.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Solicitor General conducted an RFP process (the Province of Ontario's Request for Bids and PCPG agreement under OPP-1607), which resulted in a contract with Axon. The OPP-1607 agreement is the outcome of that competitive RFP. OPS has been leveraging this procurement vehicle for all Axon-related acquisitions, as it is recognized by the City of Ottawa's procurement office as a competitive procurement.

The proposed Axon contract is a five-year agreement, spanning June 1, 2026 to May 31, 2031, with a total value of $27,210,338 net of HST. This includes $1,236,933 for BWC and docking equipment to be delivered in 2026 and 2027, with the remaining $25,973,405 attributable to subscription software and services.

The pretax cost for Year 1 is $1,201,880, followed by an annual cost of $6,502,114 for Years 2 through 5. The Year 1 cost reflects a credit of $700,642, resulting from the payment of pre-existing contracts related to the 30-unit BWC pilot and Digital Evidence Information Management System (DEIMS) licenses, including evidence.com and interview room services. The new proposed contract consolidates these services into a single agreement.

The 2026 costs will be funded through the one-time $1,000,000 BWC operating budget, with any costs exceeding this amount covered by existing IT capital funding earmarked for DEIMS, thus resulting in no new pressures to the 2026 budget.

As this is a multi-year agreement, Board approval is required for future funding commitments, as costs for Years 2 through 5 will be included in future, currently unapproved budgets. While there is an existing operating budget base of $656,000 for DEIMS licenses, the annual funding pressure for Years 2 through 5 is $5,960,552.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1: Benefits Realization Details

Document 2: Pilot Closeout report

CONCLUSION

Body worn cameras represent a meaningful advancement in modern policing, strengthening transparency, enhancing accountability, and reinforcing public confidence. By providing an objective record of police interactions, BWCs support fair, evidence-based decision-making, improve the accuracy of reporting and investigations, and promote professional conduct. Equally important, they protect the rights and interests of both community members and officers by offering clarity in complex and often high stress encounters.

As part of a modern policing framework, BWCs leverage emerging capabilities such as real-time streaming, multilingual translation, and AI assisted documentation to improve service delivery and responsiveness in an increasingly diverse community. Collectively, these capabilities position body worn cameras not only as a technological tool, but as an essential component of accountable, transparent, and community focused policing—aligned with the Service’s commitment to public safety, trust, and continuous improvement.