



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Montré Freeman City Manager
James P. Webster, Interim Chief of Police

Date: February 10, 2023

Subject: Consideration - Accept Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Governor's Crime Commission's Local Law Enforcement Block Grant for Purchase of In-Car Cameras

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City Police Department submitted an application to the Governor's Crime Commission for the Local Law Enforcement Block FY2022-2023 grant opportunity. The Local Law Enforcement Block grant was applied for through GCC in January 2022 for the purpose of purchasing replacement in-car cameras to be used by police officers while in the field. There is no budget impact, as there is no matching fund requirement for this grant.

The department seeks to acquire 20 replacement In-Car Cameras. These cameras will go to the Field Operations Division first, as the department is seeking to replace 40 officers in Patrol with new In-Car Cameras, then continue the replacement process with replacement in the Support Services Division next. Acquisition of 20 In-Car Cameras through this grant funding source is a highly effective and cost efficient way to start the replacement acquisition process. The department will also be seeking funding through its operational budgets in the next two fiscal years to continue the total replacement process, as well as seeking additional grant funding sources to complete the process.

ANALYSIS:

In-Car cameras enable officers to memorialize arrests in the field and suspect actions, as well as provide an accurate account of the officers' actions regarding complaints made by citizens. This technology is important to remain transparent and have accountability of our officers while in the field. This valued equipment has become a standard in 21st century policing and there are no other viable options to achieve this standard except with the use of this equipment, which is also enhanced by in-car cameras, but still very much needed in the field. Both the In-Car Camera Program and Body Worn Camera Program go hand-in-hand to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of daily operations. Replacement of the department's existing In-Car

Cameras is necessary due to the age of the cameras, and will enhance the department's existing equipment fleet and also provide for spares and begin replacement of older models as we plan for future budgetary years.

In seeking to start the replacement process, the department researched different vendors for In-Car Cameras and has selected Axon Enterprise, Inc. out of Arizona as the company to best meet the needs of the agency, with its product being most appealing to the quality and type of In-Car Camera that is needed by members of the Elizabeth City Police Department.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize the Elizabeth City Police Department's acceptance of the Governor's Crime Commission's Local Law Enforcement Block grant for FY2022-2023 in the amount of \$ 23,370.00 to be used for the purchase of 20 In-Car Cameras to be used by police officers in the field.