



Body Worn Cameras

Testimony Presented to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Measure 110 Implementation

Ken Sanchagrin
Executive Director
Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
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Body Worn Cameras

SB 668

- CJC was asked to explore the possible costs associated with increasing body worn camera capacity in Oregon.
- While CJC was unable to do an exhaustive search, we explored the common cost drivers, discussed current costs with Oregon law enforcement agencies, and explored possible ways to lower costs.
- A full evaluation would take considerable time, so the estimates given here should be taken as preliminary.

Commonly Identified Costs

- Hardware and Software
- Data Storage and Maintenance

Less Commonly Identified Tasks/Costs

- Community Outreach and Engagement
- Policy Development (statewide and/or agency specific)
- Latent IT Costs
- Personnel Costs

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Commonly Identified Costs

- **Hardware and Software:**
 - All officers interacting with the public need hardware and software
 - Reserve hardware is also needed to ensure all officers have working cameras available at all times
 - Software (and possibly hardware) is likely needed for staff downloading, editing, tagging, and transferring files
- **Data Storage:**
 - It is estimated that each officer generates 1-2TB of data per year
 - A major cost driver for storage is access. How many files are accessed and how often they are accessed can substantially increase storage costs

How many officers are there in Oregon?

There are approximately 10,000 sworn officers in Oregon. Approximately 6,000 officers routinely interact with the public.

What is the cost estimate?

CJC arrived at a preliminary cost estimate of \$1,500 per officer per year (this only includes hardware, software, and storage). Based on the officer numbers above, the annual cost of outfitting all officers would range from \$9M to \$15M.

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Less Commonly Identified Costs

- Community Outreach and Engagement
- Policy Development: at either the state or local level, policies must be developed concerning
 - Video Capture: when should cameras be activated, deactivated; issues of consent
 - Video Viewing: oversight by superior officers; need for incident review
 - Video Use: evidence; custodial interviews; use for intelligence
 - Video Release: public release policies; FOIA requests
 - Video Storage: downloading videos; maintaining chain of custody; retention policies
 - Process/Data Audits and Controls: compliance monitoring; security violations

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Less Commonly Identified Costs

- Latent Cost Drivers:
 - Need for 24/7 software support from BWC vendors
 - Hardware replacement and upgrades
 - Officer time tagging videos (estimates of up to 30 minutes per day processing and tagging videos)
 - Staff time to redact videos due to privacy concerns
 - Possible upgrades to existing IT infrastructure at LEAs to account for transferring and processing large files
 - Staff time required to respond to public records requests

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Examples from Other States

- The City of Baltimore performed an in-depth review of BWC costs.
 - In a 2015 report, it was estimated that initial costs would range from \$5.5M to \$7.9M for full implementation, including hardware, software, storage, and other latent costs.
 - The Police Department entered into a contract for \$11.6M over a five year period for hardware, software, and storage (for approximately 2,500 sworn officers).
 - In six months, officers captured 133,000 videos with over 23,400 hours of footage. This included 95,000 calls for service, 15,300 vehicle stops, and 15,900 arrests. Almost 5,000 videos were transferred to prosecutors.

**BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT**
BODY WORN CAMERA FOOTAGE REQUEST FORM

DATE

FORM 375/16

Requestor:	
Address:	
Phone #:	Email Address:
Case Name or Client Name (if applicable):	
Subject:	
Police Report Number (CC#) or CAD#:	
Location of Incident:	Date & Time Frame:
Officer Name:	Officer's Seq#:
Detailed Description of the Incident:	

PLEASE NOTE:

Based on the information provided, the Body Worn Camera (BWC) Administrator will search for the video that is responsive to your described incident.

The BWC Administrator makes independent determinations on a case-by-case basis as to the release of any footage requested. The Maryland Public Information Act (MPLA), Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article ("GP"), § 4-101, et seq. governs this request for BWC footage.

Your request for records is an agreement to pay the reasonable costs of producing the records. The reproduction cost associated with producing any one (1) BWC Video File is \$50.00 (i.e., if the incident requested entails two (2) responsive BWC video files, the cost of reproduction is \$100.00).

*Please return the completed form either by email to DCU@baltimorepolice.org or by mail to **Baltimore Police Department/Office of Legal Affairs, c/o Document Compliance Unit, 100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 101, Baltimore MD 21202.***

Revised 12/16

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Examples from Other States

- South Carolina established a grant with the goal of statewide BWC usage in 2015.
 - For a state with 300 law enforcement agencies and a population of 4.9M, the total cost was estimated to be \$21,000,000 in the first year and \$12,000,000 annually thereafter.
 - The SC Legislature only allocated \$3.4M initially and \$2.4M annually since the initial passage of the law.
 - The program has struggled as costs have been shifted to and borne by local governments due to a lack of statewide funding.
 - The lack of funding and state oversight has also meant that policy development and standardization has lagged behind expectations.

Despite celebrated 2015 law, body cameras for SC law enforcement lack state funding

BY FLEMING SMITH FSMITH@POSTANDCOURIER.COM
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Gov. Nikki Haley thanks Rep. Wendell Gilliard for his help after she signed into law a measure to equip all South Carolina police officers with body cameras Wednesday, June 10, 2015, in North Charleston. [Ella/Cross/Beckm/Staff](#) BUY NOW

Source: *The Post and Courier*, [5/31/2020](#)