



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

4:00 PM

Municipal Center

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

Mayor Harold Perrin was in attendance.

Present 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and Joe Hafner

Absent 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-19:009](#)

MINUTES FOR THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING ON JANUARY 29, 2019

Attachments: [Finance Minutes 01292019.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and Joe Hafner

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

4. New Business

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED

[ORD-19:005](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT WITH AXON ENTERPRISES, INC FOR THE PURCHASE OF AXON FLEET CAMERAS AND AXON TASER PROGRAMS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Sponsors: Police Department

Attachments: [Fleet Cameras - Q-199906-43501.197PS - 2-5-19](#)
[Taser Package - Q-199334-43501.011PS - 2-5-19](#)
[Axon Sole Source Letter](#)
[Axon 2019 Quote Analysis vs. Budgeted Amounts](#)

Councilmember David McClain said looking at the price as far as the first year and then it almost triples the next few years, is this some kind of introductory special they're giving us. Police Chief Rick Elliott said no. It is spread out. This is going to be an ongoing contract. We do this five years at a time. So, we're into this program for the first five years and there is a contract. Now five years from now to continue on, we'll be doing the contract again. To answer your question, it was spread out using the grant money and then they just set up the payments and kind of spread it out. After it's all said and done, what we had budgeted for this year, we're actually \$49.17 under budget.

Chairmember Joe Hafner said it looks like this year they are doing 32 cars and then next year it's 88 cars and that's part of the reason for the increase. Chief Elliott said correct. There will be an increase in vehicles next year. The current system that we have, L3, and our car cameras are dying. I'm already having to pull them out of supervisory vehicles because they have just stopped working and I don't want to get them fixed because we're trying to buy into this system. The 32 cameras for this year will kind of replace those that we have already had to pull out, and then some, and then, hopefully, it will carry us over to next year. Councilmember McClain asked 32 cameras would be enough. Chief Elliott said I think for right now it will be fine. Obviously, if we get into this and we have a major crisis in mid-year, then I will come back to Council, but with the body cameras on the officers, that takes care of quite a bit of what needs to be recorded anyway. These two cameras do integrate with each other. That's why this is a sole source package because it is tied into the Axon body cameras and tied into the Tasers. There are capabilities that when an officer draws a Taser, it automatically triggers the body camera. When you turn on your car camera, it automatically triggers the body camera. So, there are a lot of safety features built into the system for us. It cuts down on the officer having to jump out and be sure to hit the button. It's kind of a complex deal. I'll be glad to tell you whatever you need to know, such as the history of this whole project.

Councilmember McClain said I know we had a little hiccup at the end of last year and we were trying to get everything wrapped up. Chief Elliott said we did. We started in 2014 evaluating cameras and we went through a dozen vendors, and in four years' time, I had the same evaluation team go through multiple vendors and pick out what we thought was suitable. During this time, Axon made a national announcement over a year ago that they would give every law enforcement officer in the country a free body camera to use for one year, and we took upon that offer. We used it up until the fall of last year. It ran out at the end of September. Since we were kind of in the process of negotiating, Axon let us retain the cameras that we were loaned until today. We still have them. During this time, we had applied for a federal grant for body worn cameras and during this time, the city was subsequently awarded the grant. So, we couldn't sign the contract with Axon last year, at the end of the year, because under grant requirements we could not have already been in a contract with the body worn camera company. Since we had not signed a contract at that point to purchase these, we had to go through a few hoops to be able to receive this federal grant. All of our policies and procedures had to be reviewed by the Department of Justice. We went through that process and that ran us passed on into the first of the year, which caused an increase. Axon actually had a price increase. They told us there would be a price increase in January. So, there was a little bit of increase this year, but that price was negotiated down a little bit. Even before we even got into this body camera grant, Axon already discounted the program \$300,000 what we would have received on the grant anyway. So, the reality is that we are about \$250,000 to the good on this project. Even though we had a price increase, the fact that Axon discounted us \$300,000 and then we got the grant, and minus the cost increase, we're about \$250,000 to the good.

Mayor Harold Perrin said time was in our favor. Chief Elliott said timing worked out for us. Mayor Perrin said we went through some bumps because they were on loan and they were wanting them back. It's hard to take the number of cameras we have, put them in a box and send them back. Councilmember John Street said and they never charged us either for the time we were using them. Mayor Perrin said they never charged us. In fact, if this is approved, I would like to have a letter written to the company to tell them "thank you" for letting us go however many months free. Chief Elliott said if we had to pay a fee, it would be roughly \$30,000 per month, but they are writing it off, once we sign this contract.

Councilmember Street said the reason you want to expedite this is because the price is only good until February 28. Is that correct? Chief Elliott said this is time sensitive, and we have been stringing this along for a long period of time. We did reach a point with the Federal Government that we had to go through a bid process. So, the city sent out bids to 22 camera companies and only three replied. Two of those vendors we subsequently disqualified because they didn't meet the specifications. So, this brought us back to Axon. Everything is time sensitive and the quote will expire on February 28. To keep from having to go into further negotiation and take a risk of being charged any additional usage fees, we would like to ask that, when this goes to full Council, we do an emergency clause. Since we are public safety, I think that would suffice. Chairmember Hafner said also, they could come back any time and say we want our cameras back now, and we would be without them. Chief Elliott said until then, theoretically, they could, but we're not worried about that.

Chairmember Hafner said obviously, this is something that is needed, without a doubt. In today's world, to have this information and to have people be able to see what is going on, you can't replace it. Obviously, it is a huge expense and I know down the road we will probably have some challenges at our current levels of revenue as far as how are we going to budget in the future so that the police still get what they need, and this isn't a your budget went up \$400,000 for this so you can't have this. We don't want to get into that situation. I don't know if there are any grants out there to help with years three through five. Chief Elliott said we're certainly going to look at that. There is an event coming up that the Federal Government wants us to attend in Arlington, Va., in April. We can further discuss the grant and what is required of the grant. I'm going to ask if there is anything possible down the road where we can be refunded. I'm sure departments across the country face the same challenges.

Mayor Perrin said you have a good question and the comment I would make on that is I think we're going to have an opportunity to get further grants. It's like the COPS program. When it was started 20 years ago, we thought it was going to be a one-time deal, but that wasn't the case at all. They kept on moving that every year. I feel like because of this equipment and liability that a city would have due to not having this equipment that the Department of Justice is going to keep that going. Chief Elliott said the Department of Justice has realized that this is a huge program for law enforcement and that's why there is a big push on them to get these grants out there and to get as many cameras in law enforcement hands that they possibly can.

Chairmember Hafner said it kind of goes back to what I mentioned at last year's budget meeting. This is a needed expense and hopefully it goes through. I feel confident it will, but, hopefully, we can find more revenue because I don't want any department to get stuff cut because of stuff like this that is needed. For example, you can't have new police cars because you have this. We don't need to get in that situation. Chief Elliott said I don't know if you are aware on the contract, but at the 2 ½-year mark, they replace the cameras and at the 5-year mark, they replace the car

cameras and the Tasers. So, if this continues on, we will always have fresh equipment. There won't be an issue with having to repurchase equipment because it's always going to be traded out and then there won't be a storage issue because it's all built in. We've been spending quite a bit of money on Tasers. A lot of our Tasers are dying out and it's \$800 plus per Taser. With this kind of package, it gives us a chance to have equipment that is fresh and updated because technology has improved greatly just in four years as we've been going through this evaluation stage. Axon itself has made some huge improvements. The next generation of camera that will be out in 2 ½ years is far superior to what they're going to give us today. This camera is not available to the public yet or we would be getting it. It will have GPS built into it. It will have gunshot recognition built into it. So, if a gun goes off in an officer's vicinity, it will automatically activate that camera. With GPS being built into it, if an officer gets out on foot, I can track that officer on the computer to see where he or she is. So, for officer safety, that's a huge factor for us. This company is the leading technology bar none. We have gone through multiple vendors. We have looked at their products and tested their products. It is costly, but on the other hand, I think we're getting a lot out of it.

Mayor Perrin said I understand what you're saying. When we did our budget, I asked Chief of Staff Bill Reznicek and Director of Finance Trever Harvey to do a spread two or three years out, and I think we went three years out. If you look at this sheet in front of you, it jumps from \$183,000 to \$545,000. I think there is enough in the budget that we can take care of that increase because of public safety and with what they spend on an annual basis. Chairmember Hafner said I know it's a juggling act. Mayor Perrin said it is a juggling act, but, again, public safety is number one. I'm also looking at piece of equipment tomorrow that is about \$385,000 that is not budgeted that I'm going to discuss with you all later. It is a vacuum truck. We could have people on this truck every day. We have manholes that Engineering and the Street Department can tell you that we can clean out tomorrow and that would be an everyday job. I was concerned with the Fairview Addition yesterday, but, at the same time, Big Bay Ditch is backing up. When the water was going down, ours was coming back to us. Until the Corps does something about that, and I think it's time we meet again with all the drainage districts and the Corps and let's talk about that.

Mayor Perrin said we know going into the 2020 budget that there is a jump on this, but if you go back and look at the history of what the Tasers and other things they have bought and upgrading these things at the end of life, you're almost about at this same thing and now, it's just steady. The key to it is that you're getting something now that is much more valuable to police officers and us and that is the activation. Councilmember John Street said if they are damaged, don't they replace them. Chief Elliott said absolutely. This is a good thing with this company. If we lose one or tear one up, we call them and they ship us one at no additional expense. During this trial period, we tore up cameras and had one stolen. Just one more point, we're talking about money and if something critical ever did happen financially, Axon has a 30-day notice built into their contract. That's all we have to give them is 30 days and we'll box up everything and ship it back to them. At any point in time during our contract, if something happens due to whatever financial reasons and we can't carry on, there is a clause that we can get out with a 30-day notice.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and Joe Hafner

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-19:012](#)

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2019 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE FY2018 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM

Sponsors: Grants and Police Department

Attachments: [Budget Narrative](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Joe Hafner

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

[RES-19:013](#)

A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AXON ENTERPRISES, INC FOR THE PURCHASE OF AXON BODY WORN CAMERAS AND SUPPORTING AXON SERVICES

Sponsors: Police Department and Grants

Attachments: [Axon Body Cameras and Services - Q-196540-43501-184PS - 2-5-19](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Joe Hafner

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilperson David McClain, seconded by Councilperson John Street, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Joe Hafner

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant