

Collin County Body-Worn Camera Grant Program

Project Abstract

Briefly summarize the proposed project.

Currently, the Collin County Sheriff's Office uses five WatchGuard body-worn cameras on a limited basis (e.g., two traffic deputies and two to three deputies who respond to mental-health calls, including involuntary commitments under Chapter 573, Health & Safety Code). Now, CCSO applies for \$30,380 from this FY22 BWC grant to expand its BWC program by 10 cameras. CCSO's first priority is to equip 10 deputies in the Criminal Investigation Division. CID investigators work to solve a broad range of crimes, including crimes against persons (with special subunits for crimes against children and internet-based child exploitation) and various property crimes. CCSO's second, or alternative, priority is to equip 10 deputies in the Patrol Unit. These deputies patrol over 500 square miles of unincorporated area in the county with a population of over 71,000. Patrol deputies also answer 9-1-1 and other calls from this population, and they assist officers from local police departments in responding to calls in smaller municipalities in the county. Both sets of deputies are grant eligible as officers who respond directly to public calls for assistance or engage in traffic or highway patrol, under the OOG's funding announcement and Section 17.01.652, Occupations Code.

Collin County will also meet the 25% matching requirement—here, \$7,595—for a total project figure of \$37,975.

In addition, if the CCSO receives this grant, the CCSO will revise its BWC policy and train its deputies, under Sections 1701.655–1701.656, Occupations Code.

Lastly, CCSO and Collin County meet the eligibility requirements listed in the OOG's funding announcement with respect to requirements such as cybersecurity training (Gov't Code, § 2054.5191), disposition reporting (CCP Chapter 66), UCR reporting (Gov't Code, § 411.042), and compliance with federal immigration detainer requests (CCP art. 2.251; Gov't Code, Chapter 752, Subchapter C).

With respect to the prohibitions listed on page 4 of the OOG's funding announcement, the vendor's itemized proposal includes as one deliverable, "Managed Software Installation Service; On-Site Assist Install, Training, Configuration, Project Management, Consultation, \$5,000." The proposal does not separately price training. The vendor is Motorola Solutions (In July 2019, Motorola acquired WatchGuard, Inc.).

Problem Statement

Describe the nature and scope of the underlying problem the proposed project will address. Include aspects of the problem relevant to the project's approach and activities.

As SB 158, 84th Leg., R.S. (2015), and this grant program suggest, BWCs are becoming a larger part of the law-enforcement landscape. CCSO has five WatchGuard BWCs and would like to use funds from this grant to expand its program by 10 cameras. This will allow CCSO to explore the use and related policy and other implications of BWCs in new areas: criminal investigations or patrol.

Currently, the vehicles of CCSO's Patrol Unit are equipped with WatchGuard cameras. In-vehicle cameras are excellent for use on the road and in an area immediately in front of a patrol vehicle during a traffic stop on the side of a highway or road. But these cameras do not capture events or follow deputies outside of this limited viewing area. CCSO's CID and Patrol Unit are not equipped with BWCs. In short, there is room to expand CCSO's use of BWCs among officers who meet the implicit public-interaction standard of Section 1701.656, Occupations Code. This project will help CCSO take a meaningful step in consistently expanding its BWC program.

Supporting Data

Provide supporting data for the Problem Statement. Data should be relevant to the project and its target group. For example, do not use statewide data for a local problem or national data for a statewide problem.

On a broad scale, SB 158's legislative history provides the supporting data for BWC programs. The Senate Research Center's Bill Analysis, for example, touts the expected values of BWCs to the public and to law enforcement and cites studies, such as *Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program—Recommendations and Lessons Learned* by DOJ's COP and by PERF.

<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/84R/analysis/pdf/SB00158F.pdf#navpanes=0>

At the local level, an expansion of the CCSO's BWC program from five to 15 cameras, including introducing their use into either CID or Patrol, will give the Sheriff and staff a greater opportunity to evaluate and revise their use of BWCs.

Project Approach & Activities

Describe the methodologies, approaches, and activities to be employed by the project. This should logically tie back to the Problem Statement.

If it receives the grant, CCSO will buy 10 CapEx Body-Worn Cameras with Evidence Library Cloud Service, software and hosting for the BWCs with the grant funds. CCSO will and revise its policies consistent with Section 1701.655, Occupations Code, and will train either the CID or Patrol deputies consistent with Section 1701.656.

Capacity & Capabilities

Describe the applicant organization's background as well as any organizational and staff capabilities and qualifications necessary to carry out this project using the approaches and activities provided above, including any essential collaborative partnerships.

Located in Collin County, CCSO provides law enforcement services to approximately 72,000 persons living in the unincorporated area of the county and persons living in municipalities who do not have an independent police department. CCSO deputies also assist local PD officers in answering calls for service in small towns. CCSO's CID deputies are the primary criminal investigators in these areas as well.

Assistant Chief Deputy (Operations) Mitch Selman will oversee the BWC project and its implementation. He has over 31 years of experience in law enforcement.

Performance Management

Describe how the applicant organization will measure success for this project. Describe the overall goals, objectives, and strategies for this project and how the organization will collect, track, and maintain the relevant data needed to determine if the project is achieving these standards throughout the grant period.

CCSO's goals with this project are to expand its use of BWCs into either CID or Patrol and to evaluate BWCs value in terms of information gathering and transparency and accountability, including under Section 1701.657, Occupations Code, related to recording interactions with the public.

Target Group

Describe or list the agencies, individuals, or other groups to whom you expect to provide services, including any relevant data.

CCSO deputies investigate crime in and provide direct services to the residents of the unincorporated areas of Collin County or in municipalities without a police department. This population is approximately 72,000. In 2018, the crime rate was 14.19 per 1,000 persons, according to DPS's Crime Report. The target area is the unincorporated and rural areas of the county.

Evidence-Based Practices

Describe the research or evidence that led the applicant to select the methods, approach, and activities described above. Where possible, cite specific research, evidence, or published best/promising practices model used as the basis for the project's design. If the project approach and activities described above are not based on existing evidence, the applicant must describe why they believe the method to be promising.

SB 158, 84th Leg., R.S. (2015),(Subchapter N, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code) and increased public attention to BWCs has prompted CCSO to apply for this grant to expand its BWC program.