

# POLICE OPERATIONS

Body-Worn and In-Car Cameras



- LCPD has been using L3 Mobilevision since 2001
- L3 Mobilevision has failed to keep up with technological advancements associated with in-car and body-worn camera systems
- The company was recently purchased by Fleet Safety, and it is unlikely the company will continue to support the products LCPD has invested in
- At the same time, there is a desire from League City officers to adopt a body-worn camera system
- Body-worn cameras benefit officers, administrators, League City, and citizens
- Body-worn cameras increase transparency, improve police accountability, deescalate officer and citizen behaviors in stressful situations, aid criminal prosecution, and can help prevent costly litigation



## Background

### Body-worn and In-car Camera System



A rigorous 5 step process for evaluating and selecting a new in-car and body-worn camera system was implemented.

1. **Document Research** – analyzed research studies, professional journals, product reviews, and government publications discussing the different systems and recommendations for selecting a camera system
2. **Surveys** – composed and disseminated a survey to state and regional contacts
3. **Site Visits** – visited other agencies to see how their system was utilized and gain a better understanding of pros and cons
4. **Vendor Demonstrations** – had vendors come to League City to discuss their products in detail and give demonstrations
5. **Trial & Evaluation** – conducted 30-day trial & evaluation with the top 3 vendor choices



## Evaluation Structure & Process

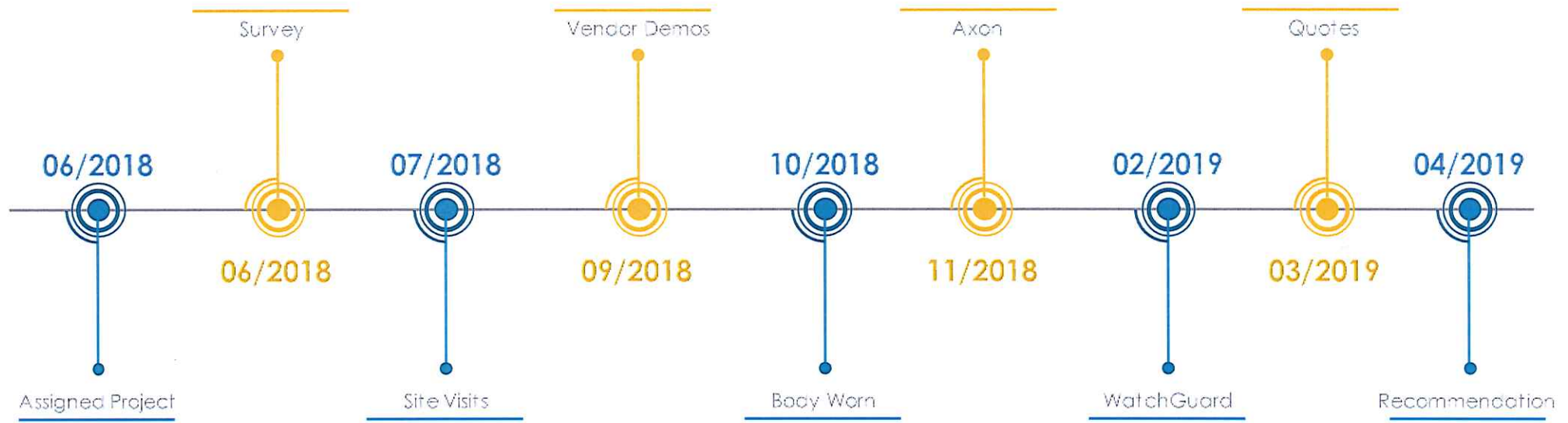
### Body-worn and In-car Camera System

- **Reliability** – system needs to perform as advertised in the situations, weather conditions, and shift duration encountered by League City officers
- **Functionality** – camera and management software needs to be user friendly and allow officers to complete their job safely and efficiently while capturing valuable evidence and data
- **Video and Evidence Management** – management solution has to allow for fast and efficient processing of evidence and open records request
- **Storage** – an affordable cloud storage with unlimited storage space that allows for peace of mind that increased videos will not overburden the system
- **Sustainability** – vendor needs to be established and continually improve on products to keep pace with technological advancements
- **Customer Service** – reputable customer service that will continue to meet LCPD needs and be receptive to suggested improvements
- **Cost** – complete system needs to be affordable and be able to save the agency money in time, personnel cost, and potential litigation



## Internal & External Considerations

### Body-worn and In-car Camera System



# Timeline



- LCPD is the only area municipality without a body-worn camera system
  - Most agencies have had body-worn cameras over 2 years
- Over 36 different vendors
- More than 60 different camera systems
- Rapidly developing technology



## PRELIMINARY RESEARCH

Body-worn and  
In-car Camera System

- 202 regional law enforcement agency representatives contacted
- 27 representatives completed a 10 question survey
- Axon, BodyWorn, WatchGuard, Coban, and L3 were used by multiple respondents
  - Axon and BodyWorn had positive reviews
  - WatchGuard had mixed reviews
  - Coban and L3 had unfavorable reviews



## SURVEY

Body-worn and  
In-car Camera System

- Visited several agencies, who responded to the survey, to observe the camera system and ask further questions
  - Port Arthur – BodyWorn
  - Lumberton – WatchGuard
  - Friendswood – MobileVision
  - Baytown – Axon and Coban
- Contacted several other agencies via phone calls and email
  - Texas City – Axon
  - Alvin – Axon
  - Galveston – WatchGuard



## SITE VISITS

Body-worn and  
In-car Camera System



- Conducted 30-day Trial & Evaluation with the top 3 vendors according to agency surveys, site visits, and online research
  - BodyWorn by Utility – November
  - Axon – December
  - WatchGuard – January
- Every test period involved evaluating 5 body-worn cameras, an in-car system, cloud storage, and evidence software



## TRIAL & EVALUATION

Body-worn and  
In-car Camera System

- Current in-car system being utilized by agency
- Outdated technology with little or no improvements over the last 10 years
  - Several agencies have switched to other companies after initially choosing Mobile-Vision
- Recently purchased by Fleet Safety
  - Current products will not be supported in the future
- League City has spent \$291,172.23 over the last three years to maintain this system.
  - Averages out \$97,057.41 per year
  - This is the cost to maintain only in-car and interview room video systems



## L3 MOBILEVISION

Body-worn and  
In-car Camera System



## BODY-WORN BY UTILITY



### Body-worn and In-car Camera System

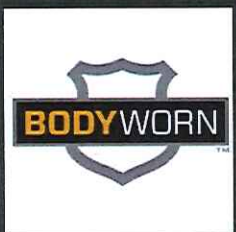
#### POSITIVES

- High quality video and audio
- User friendly, reliable, and durable system
- Worn inside of shirt or vest carrier
- Unlimited cloud storage
- Efficient and effective video management system
- Innovative company with exceptional customer service
- All equipment covered by full warranty

#### NEGATIVES

- Fewer mounting options than other systems
- Requires Bluetooth wristband to be worn for manual activation
- Battery life could be problematic past 12 hour shifts
- Smaller company than Axon and WatchGuard





## BODY-WORN BY UTILITY



### Body-worn and In-car Camera System

#### COST

- \$999,999.00
- Divided out across 5 years
  - 1st year - \$558,155
  - 2nd-5th year - \$110,461
- 5 year contract with guarantee no more than a 2% increase in cost at 5 year mark
- Buy-back program for MobileVision systems currently installed in patrol cars
- This price includes 132 body-worn cameras, 75 in-car systems, 9 interview rooms, all additional hardware, unlimited cloud storage, management software, and full warranty





AXON

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Body-worn and In-car Camera System

POSITIVES

- High quality video and audio
- User friendly, reliable, and durable with multiple mounting options
- Unlimited cloud storage
- Efficient and effective video management system
- Most utilized body-worn camera vendor on the market
- Innovative company with excellent customer service
- All equipment covered by full warranty

NEGATIVES

- Bulkier system that is worn outside of clothing
- Camera can fall off in foot pursuits and use of force situations
- Have to purchase extra user licenses for anyone needing video access not assigned a body-worn camera



AXON

## Body-worn and In-car Camera System

### COST

- \$1,244,548.42
- Divided out across 5 years
  - 1st year - \$309,683.29
  - 2nd & 3rd year - \$246,508.07
  - 4th year - \$240,700.92
  - 5th year - \$201,148.07
- 5 year contract
- Buy-back program for MobileVision systems currently installed in patrol cars
- This price includes 132 body-worn cameras, 75 in-car systems, 9 interview rooms, all additional hardware, unlimited cloud storage, management software, and full warranty







# WATCHGUARD

Body-worn and In-car Camera System

VISTA



## POSITIVES

- High quality video
- Reliable and durable camera with multiple mounting options
- In-car camera has a panoramic view
- Unlimited cloud storage
- Efficient video management system
- Company is the largest vendor for in-car systems

## NEGATIVES

- Audio picked up more wind and other noises than other systems
- Bulkier than other systems and mounts are prone to breaking
- Technology noticeably behind other systems
- Battery life would not last entire shift
- Camera not as user friendly as other systems
- Had issues uploading videos to the cloud
- Poor customer service during the install, Trial & Evaluation, and final pickup



# WATCHGUARD

Body-worn and In-car Camera System



## COST

- \$1,177,936 for 5 years
  - \$750,256 for the first year
  - Additional \$106,920 annually for the proceeding 4 years for cloud storage
- This price includes 132 body-worn cameras, 75 in-car systems, 9 interview rooms, all additional hardware, unlimited cloud storage, and management software
- Does not include warranty beyond the 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Does not include Redaction software
- Hardware is bought outright by League City



- Increased effectiveness and efficiency
- Expanded community confidence and trust
- Improved video evidence that will aid in criminal and civil litigation
- Potentially decreased use of force situations
- Minimal costs associated with time involved in managing the data and additional personnel
- Monetary savings if and when the city and agency are subject to civil litigation



## Agency Impact

Body-worn and  
In-car Camera System



The League City Police Department should adopt a new in-car camera system and implement the use of body-worn cameras. These changes will help ensure the agency exhibits the highest level of professionalism, continue to provide quality police services to the growing community, and while increasing the sense of trust and accountability with the public. To accomplish these ends, the agency should move forward with Axon or BodyWorn by Utility. Both products have demonstrated they will meet the high level of expectations set forth, and both companies have a track record of being on the forefront of technological advances in this field. Axon would be preferred by the officers and would likely be an easier transition moving forward with body-worn cameras. Axon is also the larger company and has the added benefit of future stability as the video evidence market continues to develop.



## Recommendation

Body-worn and  
In-car Camera System