



RAPID CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Karl Jegeris, Chief of Police
Community. Service. Integrity.

February 6, 2017

Mayor Steve Allender and City Council
300 6th St.
Rapid City, SD 57701

RE: Request to apply for DOJ Body Worn Camera Grant

We are in the preliminary stages of Research and Development of a future Body Worn Camera (BWC) program for the Rapid City Police Department. We have recently learned that we are well qualified to apply for a DOJ grant that would cover 50% of the cost of the initial expenses for such a program.

The CIP committee has previously approved funding for a BWC program. There is currently \$560,000 earmarked in the 5-year CIP plan for 2021. Cost estimates at the time this was approved by CIP committee were based on estimates from contracts from the Minneapolis Police Department and Denver Police Departments BWC programs. Ongoing technology improvements and competition amongst vendors in the recent past have caused equipment improvements and cost effectiveness. At this time, our cost estimate for the City of Rapid City is \$200K, with an anticipated cost share from the Department of Justice. This would cover the start-up costs, and 2 years of a service agreement. Sheriff Thom is also bringing this request to apply for this grant opportunity to the County Commission this month. Our intention is to move forward with the grant opportunity together if both political bodies support doing so.

If we are successful with this grant request, we would anticipate being notified in Summer or Fall of 2017. At that time, we would have 9 months to complete our Research and Development Phase, and could have this program implemented by Summer of 2018. Our intention is to request the City's share of this expense through our Priority Based Budgeting process for our department's 2018 budget. It is likely that the City's \$200K cost could be spread over 2 years.

I recognize this is a significant expense that will likely be a perpetual cost for the city in the future. I believe the greatest benefit of this program is that it will assist with the prosecution of many crimes, therefore increasing the deterrent effect of criminal behavior in our community. It also has become a best practice in communities to ensure ongoing community trust.

Sincerely,

Karl Jegeris
Chief of Police