



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

METROPOLITAN

*Interim Chief Julie Tolbert*

**To:** Molly Huhn, Director of Purchasing

**From:** Julie Tolbert, Chief of Police *J.T.*

**Reference:** Body Camera/Evidence.com/Taser Package (Sole Source)

**Date:** October 9, 2014

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Taser International provides an all-inclusive solution for the implementation, management, and maintenance of the department's Taser/Body Camera/Evidence Management and Data Program. Their products are unique due to the seamless integration, in its application and maintenance.

The Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Department is requesting the purchase and upgrade to include the "package" of Axon Body Cameras, Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW's), and Evidence.com. The proposal from Taser International includes special pricing, a buyback program on our existing Taser International CEW's, as well as our CEW's from another manufacturer, and the vendor will provide a total of three hundred and sixty (360) Axon Body Cameras at no cost to the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department. I make special note that the special pricing, buyback, and waiver of cost for body-worn cameras is based on the purchase of the "package".

A sole source justification exists because the following goods and services required to satisfy the agency's needs are only manufactured and available for purchase from Taser International.

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department is requesting the purchase/upgrade of a total of two hundred (200) Taser X2 ECW's. At the present time Taser International is the only manufacturer of Conducted Electrical Weapons. The department is currently utilizing Taser International CEW's and has been operating and training under the guidelines and certifications of Taser International since 2010. The Taser X2 is equipped with a total of two (2) preloaded cartridges that would allow an officer to fire them simultaneously without unloading a cartridge and reloading another cartridge. With our current Tasers, officers do have to unload one cartridge and load another to get a second deployment. This feature on the Taser X2 will help to save valuable time when officers are presented with making split second decisions and taking action. There is not another manufacturer or vendor of CEW's and there is not another training platform for CEW's in existence.

Taser International's Digital Evidence Solution consists of body-worn cameras, evidence transfer, accessories, digital evidence management software, and data storage. Taser's Digital Evidence Solution is the only system that meets the department's needs to enable officers to record, manage and store digital recordings in a timely and effective manner.

Below, I have listed why soliciting bids or proposals would be undesirable, impractical or impossible:

1. Taser body-worn cameras have a 30 second pre-event record buffer option which allows the user to capture 30 seconds of video footage prior to activating the camera in record mode.
2. Taser body-worn cameras have a 12 hour battery life both in pre-event and normal record modes. These are the only on-officer cameras identified that will operate in these modes beyond an 8 hour patrol officer shift, eliminating the need to recharge the camera when an officer works over.
3. Taser body-worn cameras and digital evidence management solution (evidence.com) enables officers to immediately link and attach metadata to recordings prior to the evidence being uploaded. The ability to attach metadata in the field improves accuracy and efficiency. All other systems require the digital evidence to be uploaded to a laptop or desk top prior to the metadata being attached.
4. Taser's Evidence Transfer Manager (ETM) allows automatic file uploading and simultaneous recharging of body cameras. Each ETM has multiple docking stations and officers do not have to be present while files upload. Officers can dock their cameras in seconds at the end of their shift and go home; no log-in or wait is required. This will save time, keep officers on patrol in the community longer, and have the equipment ready at the start of the officer's next shift. Taser is the only vendor that offers this option. Other vendors' products require officers to access an available LAN computer or intranet connection, log in to the LAN, wait until all files are uploaded and then log out. This method is significantly more time consuming for each officer. Further, our precincts could have 15 or 20 officers attempting to access a limited number of LAN connections and upload files at the same time.
5. Taser's "Evidence Mobile" is the only mobile application that gives officers the ability to capture digital evidence, immediately identify it, and link it to Evidence.com from an iOS or Android mobile device. This application allows the evidence to immediately become manageable and searchable in Evidence.com

The department will receive a total of 360 Axon body-worn cameras with the Evidence.com to give us the ability to download, manage and store digital data. I make mention once again that the 360 Axon body-worn cameras are being offered at no cost based on the purchase of the "package" and this product and service is the only one with the necessary quality, merit, and functionality required by this department.

I have also listed below, the features the product and vendor provides which are not available from any other source;

1. Taser's Digital Evidence Solution provides an audit trail and other security features that assure digital evidence will meet all standards for reliability in court.
2. Axon cameras have a configurable pre-event buffering record mode, preset to 30 seconds.
3. Axon cameras have 12-hours of battery life in pre-record buffering mode and in record mode. This is the only camera that has the ability to last more than a normal 8 hour shift without being recharged.
4. Axon cameras have several mounting options. The Axon Flex is unique in that it can be mounted on the head, the lapel and on the collar. All other vendors offer systems that are designed for chest only mounts. The mounting options are necessary to accommodate officers' preference and physical attributes. As an example, an Axon Flex camera can be mounted in different locations and angled up or down depending on the officer's stature and on the camera angle desired in a specific situation.
5. Taser's Digital Evidence Solution is the only system that enables officers to immediately link and attach metadata to a recording prior it being uploaded. Taser also offers the ability to categorize digital evidence and manage it using more unique searchable fields than other products.
6. Taser's Evidence Transfer Manager (ETM) automatically uploads the digital evidence to a Cloud server, simultaneously charging the camera, without necessitating an officer be present. No local infrastructure or software is needed.
7. Taser's "Evidence Mobile" application gives officers the ability to capture digital evidence (audio, photographs, and video), identify it with metadata and link it to Evidence.com from an iOS or Android mobile device. This evidence immediately becomes manageable and searchable in Evidence.com.
8. Taser International's Evididence.com is the only vendor that comes with Redaction capabilities. With open records requests, this will allow our agency the ability to meet these requests in a timelier manner. Redaction will allow us to share vital and sensitive information with our community without exposing the City of Savannah to unnecessary liability.

Further, the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, sponsored a study entitled "Body-worn Cameras for Criminal Justice: Market Survey," which was prepared by ManTech Advanced Systems International in March 2014. This study lists the product

features for commercially available body-worn cameras and storage solutions. This study supports the position that only Taser meets the department's requirements. The study is attached.

Below, I have included the cost of this 5 year proposal along with a year 1 to year 5 breakdown, and some of the benefits of this proposal from Taser International;

Cost of total package over 5 year period = \$1,739,347.88

Total cost of Taser X2's plus accessories and maintenance = \$423,822.25

Total cost of Evidence.com = 1,315,525.63

Cost of Axon Body-worn Cameras = Free

Cost year 1 = \$534,207.00

Cost year 2 = \$301,285.22

Cost year 3 = \$301,285.22

Cost year 4 = \$301,285.22

Cost year 5 = \$301,285.22

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department's Administrative Services Division Director has identified funding under Requisition Number is 89251.

Also, note that all equipment will be under warranty for the full 5 years and at 2 ½ years into the 5 years; Taser International will upgrade/replace the body-worn cameras along with the evidence transfer managers, and the Taser X2's at no additional or hidden costs.