



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

3060 Willamette Drive NE
Lacey, WA 98516
360-486-2380 (Phone)
360-486-2381 (Fax)
www.waspc.org

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November 30, 2023

Bernard Dean
Chief Clerk of the House
Deliver to: clerk.chief@leg.wa.gov

Sarah Bannister
Secretary of the Senate
Deliver to: senate.secretary@leg.wa.gov

Subject: Body-Worn Camera Grant Program—Annual Report

Chief Clerk Dean and Secretary Bannister:

Pursuant to Chapter 475, Laws of 2023, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) is submitting its annual report on the Body-Worn Camera Grant Program. This report is submitted in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Strachan
Executive Director

Body-worn Camera Grant Program—2023 Annual Report

The Body-worn Camera Grant program was established via budget proviso with the adoption of Chapter 297, Laws of 2022¹. The program was implemented to assist law enforcement agencies to establish and expand body-worn camera (BWC) programs. The Body-worn Camera Grant program was continued in the 2023-2025 biennium with the adoption of Chapter 475, Laws of 2023². The 2023 budget proviso calls for WASPC to submit an annual report to the governor and legislature each year by December 1st.

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) was tasked to provide \$100,000.00 in grant funds to local law enforcement agencies for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. WASPC received grant applications exceeding \$1,600,000.00. WASPC prioritized applications submitted by agencies that did not have an established body-worn camera program.

Grant funding was available for the following:

- Initial purchase, maintenance, and replacement of body-worn cameras;
- Monetary support for the ongoing costs related to the maintenance and storage of data recorded by body-worn cameras; and
- Costs associated with public records request for body-worn camera footage and/or for the purpose of hiring personnel necessary to operate a body-worn camera program.

Agencies awarded grant funding were required to comply with provisions of chapter 10.109 RCW and to certify the following:

- Demonstrate the ability to redact body-worn camera footage consistent with RCW 42.56.240 and other applicable provisions;
- Provide training to officers who will wear body-worn cameras and other personnel associated with implementation of body-worn camera program; and
- Agree to comply with any data collection and reporting requirements that are established by WASPC as defined in the application.

WASPC awarded funds to the Clark County Sheriff's Office, Ferry County Sheriff's Office, Port Angeles Police Department and Oroville Police Department. The following is a brief summary of each agency's progress.

Clark County Sheriff's Office

"The Clark County Sheriff's Office deeply appreciates the support of WASPC for our Body Worn Camera program. Thanks to these funds it was possible to send a multi-disciplinary (Officers, Supervisors, Administrators, and Information Technology, Risk Management, and Logistics) team to be properly trained, as well as help select the appropriate equipment and software that will make our program a success."

¹ [5693-S.SL.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

² [5187-S.SL.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

Ferry County Sheriff's Office

“With the grant assistance of Washington Association of Sheriff's & Police Chiefs (WASPC), the Sheriff's Office has secured BWC's for all of our deputies through the AXON program.

The cameras will record any police activity that a deputy takes, including arrests, traffic stops, searches, detentions, and interrogations. The footage captured by our deputies will preserve interactions with the public, capture evidence to use in cases, and assist in investigations. The Ferry County Sheriff's Office has long considered implementing BWC's; however, funding opportunities have always been a short fall. With current legislation and reform in Washington State it was very clear to our office to continue to seek out funding for this program. With the help of WASPC, we are excited to implement BWC's in the Ferry County Sheriff's Office.

Focusing on public safety and reinforcing public trust remains a priority for the Ferry County Sheriff's Office, and we are pleased to be moving forward with implementation of the BWC program.”

Port Angeles Police Department

“The support from WASPC grant has helped PAPD develop the staff knowledge and expertise in policy, product and procedures that will allow for a successful body-worn camera program launch in 2024. PAPD through this process was able to get a \$260,000.00/5-year body-worn camera program approved in the City of Port Angeles 2024-2029 Capital Facilities Plan (CFP). Again, the WASPC grant support helped staff successfully navigate the City CFP process.”

Oroville Police Department

An award of \$5,000.00 was provided to the Oroville Police Department to develop a body-worn camera policy; however, the agency was unable to utilize the funds within the required timeframe. No funding was provided to the agency.

Program Impacts

Body-worn cameras continue to be a prevalent topic of discussion in Washington and the greater United States. The intent of body-worn camera implementation is multifactorial, to increase officer safety and accountability, increase and maintain confidence in policing, assist in investigative documentation, among many other factors.

WASPC recognizes that law enforcement agencies in Washington State have vastly ranging budgets, and competitive prioritization must take place to ensure adequate staffing and appropriate equipment is available for any scenario that may arise. Grant funding at the state and federal level is a valuable tool for law enforcement to continue to meet departmental needs, while implementing and sustaining programs that support wholistic safety and transparency for internal and external constituents alike. In present times, body-worn cameras provide an added layer of protection and remove ambiguity, to support both the public at large and the ever-changing environment of law enforcement.

2023-2025 Biennium

During the 2023 Legislative Session, WASPC was awarded \$1,600,000 in funds to distribute to local law enforcement agencies in the 2023-2025 biennium. \$1,200,000 is available to support local law enforcement agencies in fiscal year 2024 and \$400,000 is available to support local law enforcement agencies in fiscal year 2025. WASPC will provide an annual report by December 1, 2024 detailing efforts to expand the Body-worn Camera Grant Program.