



Washington Association of  
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POLICE CHIEFS**

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November 26, 2024

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Subject: Body-Worn Camera Grant Program—Annual Report

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Executive Director

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven D. Strachan".

Steven D. Strachan  
Executive Director

# Body-Worn Camera Grant –Annual Report (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)

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The Body-worn Camera Grant program was established via budget proviso with the adoption of Chapter 297, Laws of 2022<sup>1</sup>. The program was implemented to assist law enforcement agencies to establish and expand body-worn camera programs. The Body-worn Camera Grant program was continued in the 2023-2025 biennium with the adoption of Chapter 475, Laws of 2023<sup>2</sup>. The 2023 budget proviso calls for WASPC to submit an annual report to the governor and legislature each year by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

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## Overview

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) was tasked to provide \$1,200,000 in grant funds to local law enforcement agencies for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. WASPC received grant applications exceeding \$3,400,000.

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.
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## Awards

WASPC awarded funds to 27 law enforcement agencies across Washington State. Of the 27 law enforcement agencies that were provided grant awards, ten agencies were funded in support of a new program implementation. These agencies included Battle Ground Police Department, Chelan County Sheriff's Office, Clallam County Sheriff's Office, Cosmopolis Police Department, Kent City Jail, Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, Medina Police Department, Morton Police Department, Oroville Police Department, and Port Angeles Police Department. Due to grant term limitations, and the inability to

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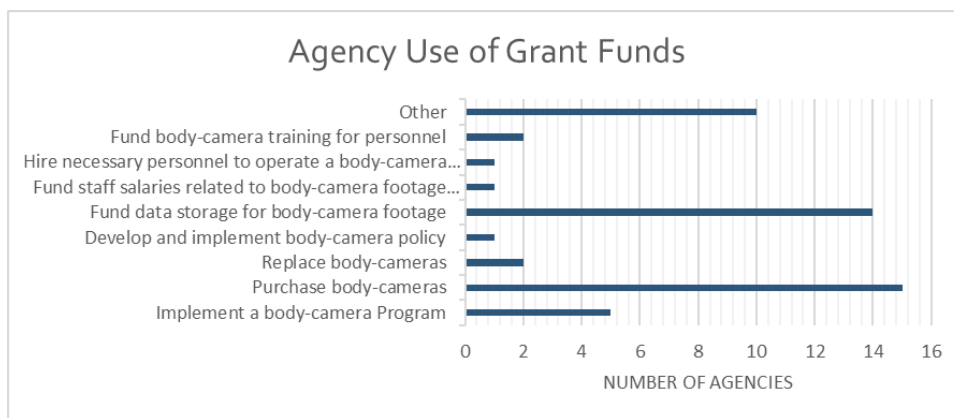
<sup>1</sup> [5693-S.SL.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [5187-S.SL.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

sustain a program past the grant term, Cosmopolis Police Department and Oroville Police Department ultimately declined the grant award.

Grant awards were also provided to Algona Police Department, Auburn Police Department, Bellingham Police Department, Benton County Sheriff’s Office, Coulee Dam Police Department, Enumclaw Police Department, Everson Police Department, Island County Sheriff’s Office, Lake Forest Park Police Department, Lake Stevens Police Department, Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office, Oak Harbor Police Department, Othello Police Department, Raymond Police Department, Reardan Police Department, Ruston Police Department, Soap Lake Police Department, and South Bend Police Department. Of those listed, one agency, Island County Sheriff’s Office, ultimately declined the funding award.

Below is an outline of how award funding was utilized, as reported by each agency. Please note that one agency may submit multiple ways in which funds were utilized.



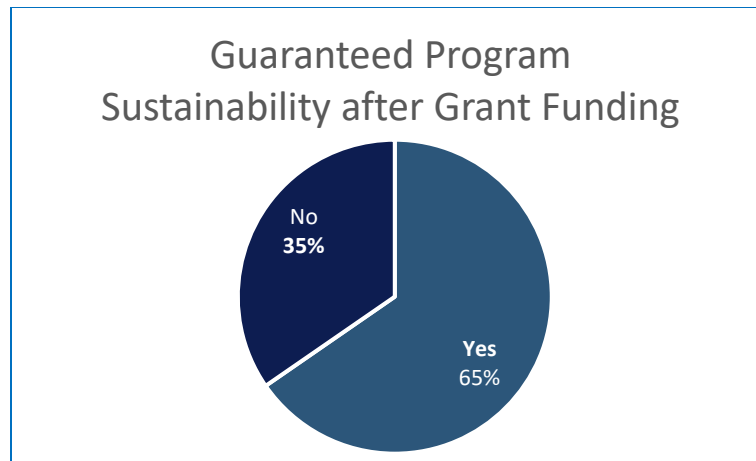
Many agencies utilized their award funding to pay for annual contract fees associated with a body-worn camera program that was previously implemented. Other specific funding uses include replacement of aging cameras, redaction training for records staff, the purchase of additional cameras to ensure all staff are outfitted, contract fees to out-source redaction and catch-up on public record requests, as well as other agency specific requests. Of the \$1,200,000.00 in available funds, the total award amount submitted for WASPC reimbursement was \$1,158,193.30.

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## Outcomes and Challenges

WASPC recognizes that the Body-worn Camera Grant Program is a valuable resource to many agencies statewide. However, the current grant program structure presents a myriad of challenges, specifically related to the logistics of implementation and sustainability of a body-worn camera program. Grant awards provided to agencies must fund services, equipment or salaries within the period of the grant term only. Contrarily, body-worn camera contracts are three- to five-year contracts, which results in difficulty for many agencies when it comes to guaranteed program sustainability past the grant term and the ability to sign a contract.

Below is an overview of program sustainability beyond grant funding, as reported by those agencies which received body-worn camera grant awards from WASPC for fiscal year 2024. Notably, sustainability remains a concern for many agencies, a challenge the Body-worn Camera Grant Program is currently unable to address.



Among other challenges, body-worn camera program implementation generates the need for an increase data storage and the capacity to respond to public record requests for footage. Body-worn camera footage redaction requires specialty software, training and can prove to be a tedious task, all of which are costly. Prior to program implementation, agencies must consider the financial feasibility for program sustainment and identify how disclosure requests will impact day-to-day operations from staff levels to data storage availability. Based on agency self-reporting by those who received funding in fiscal year 2024, average monthly requests for body-worn camera footage varies vastly from as little as zero requests to more than two-hundred requests.

As Washington State continues to be 51<sup>st</sup> in the nation for law enforcement staffing per capita, barriers to grant funding remain a challenge in the realm of body-worn cameras; a safety concern for those serving our communities and a lack of ability to continue building trust within those communities through added layers of transparency. Grant fund terms must complement the structure of body-worn camera programs for maximum benefit to agencies of all sizes, across the State.

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## Program Impacts

Body-worn cameras remain a prevalent topic of discussion in Washington State and across the nation. 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.

Many agencies that seek to implement a body-worn camera program in Washington State are reliant on grant funding for sustainability. As budgets continue to be cut, agencies are forced to prioritize what safety equipment will be renewed, which positions will continue to be funded, and what programs must be cut to continue operations. Body-worn cameras have become a necessity in many aspects of public

safety and any future grant program should provide a structure and term that will adequately support the implementation and sustainability of a program.

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## 2023-2025 Biennium

During the 2023 Legislative Session, WASPC was awarded \$1,600,000 in funding to distribute to local law enforcement agencies in the 2023-2025 biennium. \$1,200,000 was 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, 2025, in compliance with Chapter 475, Laws of 2023<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> [5187-S.SL.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)