



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #111

Capitol Police Cameras (Administration -- General Agency Provisions)

[LFB 2021-23 Budget Summary: Page 27, #10]

CURRENT LAW

The Division of Capitol Police, within the Department of Administration (DOA), is responsible for the security of state facilities and safety of state employees. Officers do not currently wear body cameras. The Division is funded from DOA's facility operations and maintenance; police and protection functions appropriation, which also supports the costs of operating state facilities. The appropriation is funded by assessments to state agencies for the operation of state facilities, from parking rental fees for facilities outside the City of Madison, and from other services provided by DOA. Base funding for police and protection functions under the appropriation is \$6,383,800 PR and 51.0 PR positions annually.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The Division of Capitol Police includes 26 police officers, three police detectives, seven police sergeants, two police lieutenants, seven dispatch staff, three support staff, and three executive management staff. The Division is divided into sections as follows: the patrol operations section protects state properties; the support services section operates a 24 hour communications center; the criminal investigations unit conducts investigations of crimes; the dignitary protection unit provides protective services to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and other dignitaries in the state; the K-9 unit assists with the detection of hazardous materials, such as explosives; and the unmanned aircraft unit assists with emergency response, traffic management, and documentation through aerial overviews. The Capitol Police are headquartered at the Risser Justice Center in Madison with two substations in the State Capitol building and in Milwaukee.

2. Assembly Bill 68/Senate Bill 111 would provide \$50,000 PR annually to purchase body-

worn cameras and store camera footage for the Division of Capitol Police. Funding would be provided to DOA's existing appropriation for police and protection functions. According to DOA, the Department would acquire 35 to 50 units at a cost of \$800 to \$1,200 per unit, depending upon the model. Ongoing costs, such as cloud storage and licensing, would depend on the number of units purchased and are not yet known.

3. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, potential benefits of body-worn cameras include increased transparency, improved civility, and reduced citizen complaints. Concerns include potential privacy issues and the high cost of hardware and storage. In January, 2021, the Department of Justice surveyed 434 Wisconsin law enforcement agencies and found that 274 agencies (63%) used body-worn cameras and 316 agencies (73%) used dashboard cameras. Most agencies without cameras cited the cost of purchasing devices and storing data as the primary reason for not using cameras. Among state law enforcement agencies, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Police Department uses body-worn cameras for all interactions with the public and the Department of Corrections is required to use body-worn cameras at certain correctional facilities.

4. Under 2017 Act 59, \$264,700 GPR annually was provided to facilitate the use of body-worn cameras for correctional officers in maximum security prisons. The provision provided funding to purchase 269 cameras with an annual licensing cost of \$984 per camera. One-time funding of \$62,000 GPR was also provided for costs associated with docking stations and installation of hardware. Data collected by cameras is uploaded to a website for Corrections' management to review.

5. Given the potential for body-worn cameras to improve transparency and civility, and the precedent of camera usage by state and local law enforcement agencies, the Committee could provide \$50,000 PR annually to the Capitol Police to facilitate the use of body-worn cameras. [Alternative 1]

6. On the other hand, it could be argued that privacy concerns and the unknown cost of data storage and licensing may outweigh potential benefits of using body-worn cameras. Therefore, the Committee could take no action. [Alternative 2] Under this alternative, DOA would not have base funding sufficient to purchase body-worn cameras for Capitol Police. However, the Department could submit a passive review request for increased expenditure authority to the Committee under s. 16.515 of the statutes once more exact cost information is known.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide \$50,000 PR annually to purchase body-worn cameras and store camera footage for the Division of Capitol Police. Funding would be provided to DOA's existing appropriation for police and protection functions.

ALT 1	Change to Base
PR	\$100,000

2. Take no action.

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