



Flagler County Sheriff's Office

Taser Axon Body Worn Video Camera Systems

October 27, 2015

Time Line

- Under the direction of Sheriff Manfre, in September 2013, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) assembled a committee of 10 subject matter experts from within the FCSO to evaluate each of the different types of video systems on the market in order to choose the best system for the FCSO.
- The committee chose the Taser Axon "Flex" system and entered into a one-month trial and evaluation period.
- After the period ended, the FCSO determined the Taser Axon's Flex was the best all-around system and purchased 20 units.

Time Line

- For the next eight months, the FCSO Traffic Unit put the system to the test. The cameras did exactly what they were designed to do.
- To date, the FCSO has acquired 79 units.
- Of the 79 units, 70 are in use in our Neighborhood Services Division (Patrol) and 9 were placed into use at the Detentions Services Division (Jail).
- With the use of general budget funds in September 2015, the FCSO is in the process of obtaining 16 Axon Body worn camera systems. We will be purchasing 36 additional units soon under a federal grant. These systems will be used by SWAT and K-9 deputies.

Evidence.com

- We chose Taser's Evidence.com to store our digital video evidence. Taser has contracted with Amazon for the actual storage.
- Evidence.com allows us to instantly view and manage our digital evidence from anywhere in the world using only a browser. This secure, chain-of-custody hosted solution requires no hardware or software to manage.
- It is cloud based and is extremely secure. The safety of the data is at or exceeds industry standards.
- We are able to effortlessly share videos.
- We have provided the state attorney's office licenses so they can view videos without asking for them. This has cut down on request times.

Axon Costs

- Each unit is priced at approximately \$1,255*. This includes:
 - Camera \$599.00 (One Time Cost). The body worn camera is \$399.00*.
 - Mounting Options \$199.95 (One Time Cost)*.
 - Evidence.com License \$180 (Yearly).
 - Taser Assurance Plan \$276 (Yearly) .
- We have entered into a five-year service plan with Taser. For a yearly payment of \$276 on each unit, the FCSO will receive a new camera system at year 2.5 and at year 5.

Axon Costs

- The funding for a majority of the 79 cameras was provided by the city of Palm Coast.
- The FCSO pays Taser a yearly fee of approximately \$56,735.00. This includes our service plan and our data management and storage (Evidence.com). This will increase with the addition of the 52 cameras.

Axon “Flex” Body Worn Camera System



Tech-Specs

- Resolution 640x480.
- Weather resistant.
- 4- to 13-hour record time.
- 30-second pre-event buffer.
- $\leq .1$ lux rating.
- 75-degree field of view.
- 12-hour battery life.
- Audio tones to alert user of usage.

Axon Body Worn Camera System



Tech-Specs

- Resolution 640x480.
- Weather resistant.
- 4- to 13-hour record time.
- 30-second pre-event buffer.
- $\leq .1$ lux rating.
- **130-degree field of view.**
- 12-hour battery life.

Axon Body Worn Camera System



Evidence Transfer Manager (ETM)-Charging and downloading station.

Issues

- A lot has changed with the advent of the body worn camera systems.
 - Although they were brought into the process early on, our prosecutors did not plan or budget for the influx of videos to their office. The same is true for defense attorney's. In some cases, we are producing up to eight separate videos per incident.
 - We are responsible for fulfilling public records requests. For example, recently it took our records clerk several hours to watch and redact the necessary footage before it was released to the media. This is due to a new law protecting body worn camera footage.

Issues

- Many agencies in the state and throughout the country have not acquired the systems for daily use. Many cite costs as the chief reason. Volusia and Jacksonville both in the news in the last few weeks.
- Agency directives need to be developed to address all of the concerns associated with the camera use. Our policies have been updated three times since first implemented in April 2014. We are working on the fourth as we speak.
- Like any piece of electronic equipment, they do break. Especially the thin wire from the controller to the camera – it is designed not be used to strangle an officer.

Issues

– Privacy: Until this legislative session, there were no specific laws, accreditation standards or case law associated with body worn cameras. On July 1, 2015, Florida Statute 119.071 was changed to reflect the following:

“A body camera recording, or a portion thereof, is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution if the recording:

- a. Is taken within the interior of a private residence.*
- b. Is taken within the interior of a facility that offers health care, mental health care, or social services.*
- c. Is taken in a place that a reasonable person would expect to be private.”*

Issues

- When do we record and when do we not record?
 - *“Deputies shall activate the MVR prior to arriving on scene of a dispatched call for service or whenever there is a potential for dealing with a suspect of a crime, or any concern of officer safety.”*
- Deputy concerns:
 - Trust or “big brother is watching us!”
 - The system cannot capture all of the elements of an encounter.
 - Will it make them less responsive or reluctant to engage or do their jobs?

Benefits

- Provides accountability and transparency.
- Reduces complaints and helps resolve deputy involved incidents.
- Changes behaviors of the deputy. Truly makes us better law enforcement officers.
- Assists in correcting internal agency issues. Internal complaints have been reduced since their implementation.
- Provides enhanced evidence documentation and sharing.

Benefits

- Provides for enhanced community relations.
- Reduces use-of-force incidents. We have seen a significant reduction in Flagler County since they were implemented.

2014 Use of Force/Arrest Stats:

- 3,017 Arrests

- 46 Uses of force (1.52 %). Of those:

*** 27 Were defensive tactics**

*** 14 Taser**

*** 4 K-9**

*** 1 Impact munition**

Let's Watch a Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBLOqbelW7w>

Let's Watch a Video

<http://flaglerlive.com/83756/suicide-by-cop-video/>

Questions?