



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

Thru: John Leach, Municipal Administrator , Acting

From: Chad Goeden, Police Chief
Grant Turner, IT Director

Date: February 10, 2026

Subject: Supplemental Appropriation for Body-Worn Cameras

Challenges

Body-worn cameras have become a standard tool for law enforcement agencies nationwide. There is strong support from both officers and the community for providing these devices, as they enhance transparency, accountability, and public trust while reducing liability.

Currently, the Sitka Police Department is among the few departments in Alaska that does not issue body-worn cameras to its officers.

Analysis

Multiple vendors were evaluated, and AXON was determined to be the best fit for the department's operational and technical needs. AXON currently supplies the department's conducted energy devices (Tasers) and the in-car camera systems being installed in incoming patrol vehicles. Their body-worn camera system integrates directly with existing evidence management and transfer systems used by the District Attorney's Office.

AXON's cloud-based evidence storage eliminates the need for the city to purchase, maintain, and secure additional on-site servers. Remaining within a single vendor's ecosystem reduces administrative burden, improves system compatibility, and streamlines training, maintenance, and technical support.

Because this acquisition is primarily a software-as-a-service and licensing agreement rather than a one-time hardware purchase, the Finance Department has determined that the contract must be administered through the IT Department.

The proposed agreement would be a five-year contract for twelve (12) body-worn cameras and the associated software licenses and support services.

Fiscal Note

The proposed contract cost is \$14,736 annually for a 5-year term, for a potential contract value of \$73,680.

The system (including software and associated camera hardware) will support Police Department functions and will be purchased and maintained by the IT Department. Costs are funded by the General Fund.

This ordinance appropriates funding for the initial year of service. Continued funding in future years is subject to annual Assembly appropriation and will be included in the respective operating budgets.

Recommendation

Approve a supplemental appropriation of \$14,736 in FY2026 to initiate a five-year contract with AXON for body-worn cameras and associated services for the Sitka Police Department.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-05
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026
(Body-Worn Cameras)

BE IT ENACTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska as follows:

1. CLASSIFICATION. This ordinance is not of a permanent nature and is not intended to be a part of the Sitka General Code of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska.

2. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this ordinance or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance and application thereof to any person and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

3. PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to make a supplemental Operation appropriation for FY2026.

4. ENACTMENT. In accordance with Section 11.10 (a) of the Charter of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, the Assembly hereby makes the following supplemental appropriation for the budget period beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Table with 2 main sections: FISCAL YEAR 2026 EXPENDITURE BUDGETS and INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS. Includes details for GENERAL FUND (Transfers Out) and INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS (Information Technology - Operations).

EXPLANATION

To enhance transparency, accountability and public trust, funding of \$14,736 is needed to purchase body-worn cameras and cover one year of associated software and licensing costs.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall become effective on the day after the date of its passage.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska this 10th day of March 2026.

ATTEST:

Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk

1st reading: 2/24/2026
2nd and final reading: 3/10/2026

Sponsor: Administrator