

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
City Council Special Joint Workshop

Saint Anthony Village City Hall
Council Chambers
3301 Silver Lake Rd NE
St. Anthony, MN 55418

AGENDA

Thursday, October 23, 2025
6:00 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON___ LEEHY___
MEYER ___ MIELKE___ WASSENBERG___

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN___

C. POLICY ITEMS:

1. Joint meeting with the St. Anthony Village and Lauderdale City Councils
 - a. Police Department Body Camera System Replacement
 - b. Open Discussion

D. ADJOURNMENT:

DISCLAIMER: City Council Workshops are held monthly as an opportunity for Council Members to discuss policy topics in greater detail prior to a formal meeting where a public hearing may be held and/or action may be taken. Members of the public that would like to make a comment or ask questions about an item on the agenda for an upcoming workshop should send them to mail@falconheights.org prior to the meeting. Alternatively, time is regularly allotted for public comment during Regular City Council Meetings (typically 2nd and 4th Wednesdays) during the Community Forum.

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REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Meeting Date	October 23, 2025
Agenda Item	C1
Attachment	Presentation from Chief Spiess
Submitted By	Jack Linehan, City Administrator

Item	Joint Discussion with St. Anthony Village and Lauderdale City Councils
Description	<p>The SAPD bodyworn cameras are coming to end of life and need replacement. Chief Spiess will present to the three city councils the considerations for replacement.</p> <p>Additionally, this will be an opportunity for the three city councils to engage and discuss the joint partnership for police services.</p>
Budget Impact	TBD
Attachment(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Bodyworn Camera Replacement
Action(s) Requested	Staff recommends that the City Council meet with the other councils and hear the presentation.



VIDEO RECORDING SYSTEM VENDOR SELECTION

OCTOBER 23, 2025

Jeff Spiess, Police Chief

Jesse Richardson, Senior Computer
Support Analyst, Metro INet

HISTORY

2011

Squad Cameras -
Panasonic

2018

Body Cameras and
Facility Cameras -
Panasonic

2026

Current Panasonic
Software – End of
Life



WHY PANASONIC WAS CHOSEN IN 2018

Industry leader at the time



- Current squad car cameras are Panasonic
- Partnered with Roseville PD in Federal Grant
- Allowed storage on internal server operated by Metro INET
- Consortium of PD's opted for Panasonic



CHALLENGES WITH CURRENT CAMERA

Panasonic > Arbitrator > Pro

- Largely unsupported and not progressing
- No Redaction
- No Video Sharing Capabilities: Considerable wasted office personnel time
- UEMS Software end of life 2026
- UDE Software set to replace UEMS Software
- UDE = poor quality, more expensive, unsupported by METRO INET

Squad Upfitter Unfamiliarity with Installation

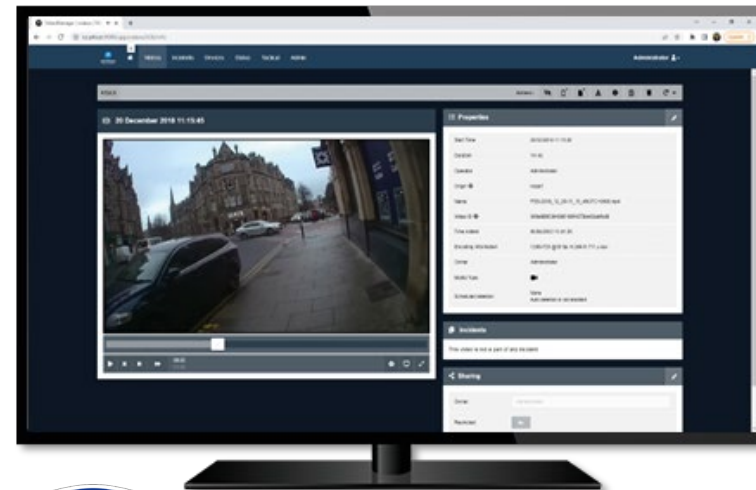
- Significant Squad Downtime
- Metro INET diagnostic time
- Software and Hardware unreliable



INDUSTRY CHANGES

Technology Trends

- Subscription based
- Cloud Storage
- Enhanced data sharing and investigative tools
- Community camera registration programs
- Video recall feature



VENDOR OPTIONS

Axon



Motorola



VENDOR: AXON



Benefits

- Industry standard: 85% of the market share
- Familiarity among squad builders = less squad down time
- Familiarity among lateral officers
- Hardware refresh every 2½ years (sooner if a new product becomes available)
- History of reliability



VENDOR: MOTOROLA



Benefits

- Lower annual cost
- Squad video camera system independent of laptop computer
- Similar operating systems compared to Axon
- Local Customer service
- ALPR Investigative Features



COST COMPARISON

Panasonic / Arbitrator

Local server space

2025 = \$14,025

2026 = \$27,939

* UDE platform total server cost \$46,429 BUT not supported by Metro INet

- Significant annual cost due to IT trend and policing standards

New Vendor

Five-year contract

Cost range depending on vendor and products:

\$399,999 - \$515,000

\$79,999 - \$103,000 annually*

*Shared proportionally based on shared services contract.



NEXT STEPS

Vendor Selection

- Video migration from current server to cloud storage
- Train officers
- Up fit squad cars and police department
- Issue body cameras



EFFECTIVE. TRANSPARENT. ACCOUNTABLE

21ST Century Policing and our Communities expect transparency and accountability.

Using the technological advances in police squad and body cameras, we can accomplish this goal.

Are we comfortable absorbing the costs to not only maintain our level of transparency and accountability, but also advance it for the benefit of our communities?



CONSIDERATIONS

Are Councils comfortable absorbing significant annual cost?

Cost is not the only factor

- Reliability is everything
- Cameras must work *every time*
- During a critical incident, if cameras fail to activate, there will be no grace and understanding from the public





THANK YOU

Questions?

