

# ARPA Proposal Form

## **Mandated Police Body and Car Camera Units**

### **Submitter Contact Information**

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### **Proposal information**

**Author resident, business, non-profit, government or civic organization:**

William T. Bernhart

### **Description of project:**

*This project results from a government mandate contained within House Bill #6004 of the Connecticut General Assembly, AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY, enacted by the legislature during a special session in July of 2020. The bill mandates that police officers must wear body cameras and use dashboard cameras in their vehicles in the performance of their duties. This requirement must be implemented by July 1, 2022 in order for the Chester constables to operate as police officers. Additionally, the mandate imposes a fine of \$100 per day that the camera systems are not operational and in use.*

*Due to delays in acting on this mandate and the increasing lead times for procurement of these cameras, the Chester Board of Selectmen declared an emergency on February 17, 2022. Sole-sourced procurement was authorized by the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen. Even with procurement initiated in early March, supply chain issues and high demand will make it difficult to meet the July 1, 2022 deadline, but it is expected that the cameras can be delivered on time.*

*This project requires the procurement of 4 Panasonic I-Pro Body Worn Cameras, 3 Arbitrator 360 HD dashboard cameras, associated accessories, licensing, configuration and training. The systems supplier is TELREPCO, an authorized Panasonic / I-Pro sales partner and repair service facility located in Wallingford, CT. They are a CT State DAS certified vendor with active state contracts (NASPO Panasonic Contract - #15PSX0221). The lead time, demand and availability of these systems dictates that they be purchased as soon as possible in order to meet the mandated deadline. Based on these observations this proposal is using the TELREPCO quoted price of \$40,750 as the basis for a not to exceed amount. This proposal is intended to establish the level of ARPA-SLFRF funding to be made available to implement the project. If approved by the Chester ARPA Committee, it will*

*then be forwarded to the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen for approval to send to a town meeting for vote. If the proposal is approved at the town meeting procurement will commence with accounting required for funding with ARPA-SLFRF funds.*

*Implementation of the camera systems is dependent on Information Technology Infrastructure as specified by the camera vendor and is proposed for ARPA-SLFRF funding as a separate project quoted by CTCOMP. At the time the procurement emergency was declared it was not understood that the infrastructure lead times were also a threat to meeting the mandated deadline of July 1, 2022. In a letter dated March 17, 2022, the First Selectwoman extended the emergency declaration to the items covered by that proposal.*

*It is noted that several towns in our state will use ARPA-SLFRF funds for this same purpose.*

*ARPA funds requested (\$): Not to exceed \$40,750*

***Who would most benefit from the project if approved:***

*The Chester police force and the entire Chester Community would benefit from the implementation of police body and dashboard cameras per the Police Accountability Act. Failure to implement the system will prevent Chester constables from performing as officers and will result in a fine to the town of \$100 per day.*

***Positive impact of project to the Chester community:***

*Implementing the project will permit the Chester police force, including resident trooper and constables, to provide the current level of law enforcement protection to the community with improved accountability and protection.*

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