

- What you NEED to know about BWC's (Body Worn Cameras)
- No matter which body camera or camera company you go with, there are vital Questions to ask!

**What are the back end costs?** Many companies charge not only for their software, but also require you to use their expensive data storage "solutions" to store video.

**Who owns the rights to the video?** Some BWC manufacturers have it in the contract that THEY, not you, own the rights to any and all videos uploaded to their servers. They not only own the rights to it, but they have the servers in foreign countries. They do this for a few reasons, one: if you do not pay their high monthly fees, you cannot access your videos. 2: Because they are in a different country, you cannot even Subpoena them for the videos, meaning you are locked in to their high rates and you have to pay them.

**Are there any contracts?** Some companies want you to sign a contract with them, some as long as 5 years! Then, they will not even outfit your department up front, and want to "roll out" the cameras in stages, leaving the majority of your department vulnerable.

**How long does the battery last? Is this rating continuous, active (Officers usual daily routine), or stand-by time. Does this count for any pre/post event recording?** Some companies BWC's will NOT last a full shift, requiring the officer to come in during lunch and download the videos / charge the unit so he can finish his shift. Some companies rate their continuous recording time as "Active" recording time, meaning the unit is only recording when an officer is on a stop or interacting with the public. This is not a continuous record time. This is fine, as long as you understand the difference.

**How much does the software cost? Are there any recurring fees, licenses, install location limits?**

Almost all companies will charge you for the software to access the data on the BWC. This means you have to pay to use the software so you can use the BWC's that you already paid for. This means again, that if they have any kind of "maintenance fee", yearly license, or any other recurring fees, that if you don't pay to keep it up to date, you can no longer access your data freely. We don't do business this way, and include our top of the line software with all systems.

**What equipment is needed to use the BWC? Clips, Holsters, Proprietary clothing, chargers, docking stations, mounts, extra cabling, adapters, USB Transfer cables, etc, and are these covered under the original warranty?** For many companies, some or all of these items are necessary, and do NOT come with the price of the unit, but must be bought to properly utilize the BWC. Some will charge you for the

charging cables, different mounts, and may other accessories for the unit to function like it was meant to.

**Does the BWC add anything onto the officers uniform? Are there any extra wires or packs needed?**

Many BWC's require the use of not only adding a piece of equipment (Big square box) on to the officers uniform, but some even have to have wires run from the BWC down to a pouch on the belt to properly use their BWC. Keep this in mind when looking at the size and weight of the unit. Our unit is not heavy to begin with, but also you can subtract the weight of your current mic since it will replace it, where most systems you have to add that in to their weight specifications because you have to have both pieces of equipment to do your job.

**What about my biggest concern, STORAGE? Will this be expensive?**

This is a major point of concern for departments, as they believe that data is an expensive (and with some companies the MOST expensive) part of the body camera process. Some companies charge \$100-\$200 PER OFFICER PER MONTH for data retention. Although we do offer cloud storage and server storage options, it is never required that you use us for this service. In fact, many departments can use their existing computers / servers for data retention, and sometimes just add a hard drive or two for longer retention policies. Most departments will find this sufficient for their needs. If you need a bigger option let us know, and we will be glad to assist you with this and find the right solution for your department.