Risk Control Reimbursement Program

APPLICATION AND PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Please complete the Application and Project Request Form for each project requested.

The Risk Control Reimbursement Program (RCRP) is a program created to encourage and assist TAC Risk Management Pool (TAC RMP) members in their risk control efforts, increase risk control participation and reduce costs associated with losses due to controllable risk. TAC RMP members may be reimbursed a predetermined amount to be used for approved risk control projects. TAC RMP members will be notified if a project is approved and the funds available for reimbursement. All members are encouraged to participate in the RCRP.

TAC RMP members wishing to participate in the program must complete this RCRP Application and a Project Request Form for each project. The deadline to apply is July 1, 2016.

Members of the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool enjoy an array of benefits, including coverage tailored to meet the needs of Texas counties, valuable risk control services and excellent customer service.

More information and forms at www.county.org/rcrp.

Applicant Information and Agreement

Member Name: Brazos County

Applicant Name: Melissa Perez - Risk Manager

Address: 200 S. Texas Ave.

City/State/ZIP: Bryan, Texas

Phone: 979-361-4246

Email: mperez@brazoscountytx.gov

I verify that all information submitted is true, correct and complete. I understand that any misrepresentation of facts or false statements contained herein may result in a denial of, or request from TAC RMP to return, Project Reimbursement funds. I understand and agree to the following:

- Reimbursement amounts may only be used for the purchase of equipment, services and training for the project(s) approved.
- TAC RMP may not approve reimbursement for every project submitted.
- Applicants must be TAC RMP members and participate in the program line related to the project request.
- Coverage in the related program line must be in effect at the time of application approval and reimbursement request.
- Projects completed prior to project approval are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Reimbursement Form and supporting documents for approved projects (receipts of project-related equipment purchases, training and/or services) must be received no later than Dec. 1 of the program year.
- Funds are limited; applications are approved based on merit.

County Judge or Executive Director **Title** **Date**

Risk Control Reimbursement Program

APPLICATION AND PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Please complete the Application and Project Request Form for each project requested.

Project Contact Name: Melissa Perez - Risk Manager

Project Name: Body Worn Cameras - SO Jail & Constables

Reimbursement Amount Requested: $ 8884.30

Members of the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool enjoy an array of benefits, including coverage tailored to meet the needs of Texas counties, valuable risk control services and excellent customer service.

More information and forms at www.county.org/rcrp.

Check all coverage lines to be impacted by this project:

☑ Workers' Compensation ☑ Law Enforcement ☐ Public Officials ☑ Property ☑ Auto Liability

Project Description: Body Worn Cameras **Project Start/End Date:**

It is the responsibility of Brazos County and the Sheriffs Office to utilize available resources to protect their officers, which are assigned to divisions where serious bodily injury may occur due to contact with inmates, suspects and mental health consumers. Brazos County Sheriffs office is an early adopter of body worn cameras technology and has been a great tool for field training officers. The presence of cameras has changed the dynamic of encounters deputies have with public.

Item Name:	Panasonic Body Worn Camera kit	Quantity:	10	Cost:	$8559.50
Item Name:	Panasonic Main Body Worn Control Unit /Mount clip	Quantity:	10	Cost:	$284.50
Item Name:		Quantity:		Cost:	
Item Name:		Quantity:		Cost:	

Location of Project: SO Jail and Constables

Department Name: SO Jail & Precinct 1, 2,3,4 Constables office

Number of Employees Affected: 10

Number of Jail Beds *(if applicable)*: n/a

Describe in detail how this project will help prevent or minimize claims/losses.

Body Worn Cameras can be affixed to officers and document their interactions to benefit everyone involved, they decrease workers compensation injuries and liability claims by just their presence alone. For law enforcement they can produce hard to refute video evidence that helps clarify the details of incidents an assits when writing up reports after the fact. The first person perspective they offer can also aid in officer training or help officers and supervisors pinpoint areas needing improvement.

INTERNAL USE ONLY.

Project No.
Assigned by TAC:

Describe the training that will be done in conjunction with this project.

Body Worn Cameres have been utilized in Brazos County for about 10 years, they are a great tool for improving Field Training for officers. Supervisors should be able to look to see what they are doing and critique themselves in the process.

Please attach any other information regarding this project you would like to be considered.

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Austin, TX 78758
United States
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F:(512)452-0691

QUOTE	
QUOTE #	**Q-163451**
Date	06/10/2016
Page	1/1
Expires On	07/10/2016
Sales Contact	J Kling
Quote For	Brazos County Auditor's Office

Customer PO #	Customer ID	Ship Via	Sales Rep	Terms	FOB
JEREMY	TXBZCA13004	GROUND	J Kling	NET 30	DESTINATION

Quantity	Contract #	Item #	Description	Unit Price	Extended Price
10	DIR-TSO-2520	ARB-BWCMAINKIT	PANASONIC : BODY WORN CAMERA KIT. INCLUDES, MOUNTING PLATE, BATTERY, STORAGE CARD, MOUNTING CLIPS	$859.95	$8,599.50
10	DIR-TSO-2520	ARB-BWCPENCLIP	PANASONIC : MAIN BODY WORN CONTROL UNIT PEN SLOT MOUNTING CLIP	$28.48	$284.80

For questions regarding this quote, please contact
Gunny Gant at 817-239-7565 or gunny.gant@arc-is.com.
This quote is valid for 30 days unless otherwise noted.

Subtotal	$8,884.30
Tax	$0.00
Total	$8,884.30

These Items are Non-Returnable

These prices do NOT include taxes, insurance, shipping, delivery, setup fees, or any cables or cabling services or material unless specifically listed above. All prices are subject to change without notice. Supply subject to availability.

Brazos County, Texas
Capital Improvement Program FY 2016

Department: Sheriff's Office - Jail Division
Project Manager: Wayne Dicky
Project Title: Ballistic Vests
Priority Number: 1

Previous Funding To-Date	Year 1 2015-16	Year 2 2016-17	Year 3 2017-18	Year 4 2018-19	Year 5 2019-20	Total Capital Cost
$ -	$ 7,022	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 7,022

Description and Scope of Project

The Sheriff's Office - Jail Division is requesting replacement ballistic vests for officers in specialized divisions.

Purpose and Need Including Operating Efficiencies and Savings

It is the responsibility of Brazos County and the Sheriff's Office to use available resources to protect their officers, which are assigned to divisions where serious bodily injury may occur due to contact with inmates, suspects and mental health consumers. The County will be providing ballistic vests to officers to protect them from assaults.

History and Current Status

The Sheriff's Office - Jail Division has and will continue to purchase ballistic vests for the safety of their officers. When new Deputies are hired, officers are promoted to specialized divisions or when vests expire, new ballistic vests are purchased to protect these officers.

Program Breakdown and Operating Budget Impact

Description/Basis for Estimate	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
11 Ballistic Vests	$6,688				
5% Potential Price Increase	$334				
Total Capital Cost:	$7,022	$0	$0	$0	$0
Staffing Expense					
Supplies and Maintenance Expense					
Operating Costs:	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total Program Cost:	$7,022	$0	$0	$0	$0

This Section to Be Completed by Capital Improvement Committee Only

Category: 63000500-67286000

Schedule of Activities				*Suggested Method of Financing*
Activity	**From**	**To**	**Amount**	Funding Source
				Fund Balance-FY
				Budget Process-FY 2016 Capital Repl Fund
				Bonds/Tax Notes-FY
				Sale of Property-FY
				Lease Payments
Total Cost				**Funding Requirements**

Completed by: Kevin Stuart
Department Name: Sheriff's Office Jail Division
Date: 3/19/2015

Brazos County, Texas
Capital Improvement Program FY 2016

Department: Sheriff's Office - Jail Division
Project Manager: Wayne Dicky
Project Title: Transportation Body Cameras
Priority Number: 1

Previous Funding To-Date	Year 1 2015-16	Year 2 2016-17	Year 3 2017-18	Year 4 2018-19	Year 5 2019-20	Total Capital Cost
$ -	$ 6,300	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 6,300

Description and Scope of Project

Four (4) additional Body Cameras are being requested for the Transportation Division.

Purpose and Need Including Operating Efficiencies and Savings

Body cameras allow us to use just one deputy for certain transports, such as transporting females, by having a complete record of the transport. Having an additional deputy, especially in these cases when their only purpose is as a witness, is a huge inefficiency.

History and Current Status

Nine body cameras were approved in the budget three years ago for all of our deputies working regular shifts. The additional cameras are for our two sergeants and two M-F deputies. All of these deputies routinely transport inmates and persons detained on a POEC (Peace Officer's Emergency Commitment.

Program Breakdown and Operating Budget Impact

Description/Basis for Estimate	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
4 Body Cameras	$6,000				
5% Potential Price Increase	$300				
Total Capital Cost:	$6,300	$0	$0	$0	$0
Staffing Expense					
Supplies and Maintenance Expense					
Operating Costs:	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total Program Cost:	$6,300	$0	$0	$0	$0

This Section to Be Completed by Capital Improvement Committee Only

Category: 63000500-67286000

Schedule of Activities			***Suggested Method of Financing***
Activity	**From**	**To**	**Amount**	**Funding Source**
				Fund Balance-FY ____
				Budget Process-FY 2016 Capital Repl Fund
				Bonds/Tax Notes-FY ____
				Sale of Property-FY ____
				Lease Payments
Total Cost				**Funding Requirements**

Completed by: Kevin Stuart
Department Name: Sheriff's Office - Jail Division
Date: 3/19/2015

Looking Through The Lens of Body-Worn Cameras

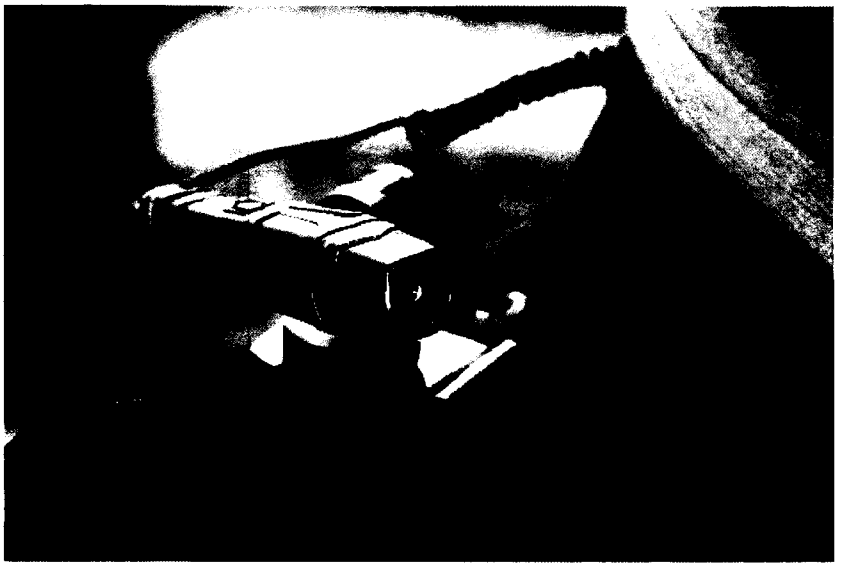
Like Share 0

TWEET

A Full Picture Approach

February 09, 2016

By Joel Nihlean



On May 31, 2015, James Bushey was accused of shoplifting a case of beer from a local Walmart in Palestine, Texas. After finding Bushey in the bathroom of a nearby Applebee's restaurant, two Palestine police officers escorted him to the parking lot. He seemed calm and cooperative. Eight seconds later, they shot and killed him.

A month after the shooting, the Palestine Police Department released the body-worn camera footage from both officers involved, Sgt. Gabriel Green and Officer Kaylynn Griffin. The videos went viral on the Internet.

"Gun, gun, gun!" Griffin yells in the video as Green tries to restrain Bushey, who has slipped past the officers hands. Bushey waves what looks like a gun – pointing it at Green. The time left to decide is measured in tenths of seconds. Both Griffin and Green fired their weapons in self-defense. Bushey was dead. His gun turned out to be a toy.

With millions of views on YouTube, the public came to the same conclusion as the Anderson County Grand Jury. The jury declined charging officers Green and Griffin with any crime, and the use of deadly force against Bushey was ruled justified. The court of public opinion saw that it was unavoidable, too. They saw what the officers saw, walked in their shoes and watched as the situation was handled professionally and courteously. Then they watched as it all changed in a flash and spun out of anyone's control.

Body-Worn Cameras – Not An Answer, A Tool

Following a year that has seen dozens of viral videos of law enforcement, along with increased scrutiny and criticism, interest in body-worn cameras is growing fast. Some try to label the technology as the answer — a panacea — but the truth about this new law enforcement tool is more complicated. There are a number of questions that law enforcement agencies across the state will need to answer before they consider deploying them.

Generally speaking, these small recording devices, which can be affixed to officers and document their interactions benefit everyone involved. For law enforcement, they can produce hard-to-refute video evidence that helps clarify the details of incidents and assits when writing up reports after the fact. The first-person perspective they offer can also aid in officer training or help officers and supervisors pinpoint areas needing improvement.

For victims of crimes, those accused of criminal activity and those calling into question their encounter with law enforcement, body-worn cameras provide more opportunity for the truth to prevail. Used appropriately, body-worn cameras can be an important new tool in the law enforcement tool belt. It pulls back the curtain on those crucial moments of interaction with the public, making citizens' allegations

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easier to probe and shining a spotlight on the professionalism of officers doing their best to handle difficult and sometimes unavoidable situations.

Brazos County on Camera

The Brazos County Sheriff's Office was an early adopter of body-worn camera technology. They were introduced to body-worn cameras through Panasonic, their vendor for digital in-vehicle video. They beta-tested the wearables for the company early on, even hosting engineers from Japan to discuss how they would be worn and what features would be most beneficial to law enforcement.

The sheriff's office has been using the technology for about three years now and will soon transition to the second generation of their system. Body-worn cameras can be found on all Brazos County patrol deputies and courthouse security, as well as their crisis intervention team and jail transport — 49 body-worn cameras in all.

Lt. Tom Randall of the Brazos County Sherriff's Office credits their ability to integrate the body-worn camera technology with their preexisting in-vehicle program for much of their success in deploying body-worn cameras. The county has been using in-vehicle cameras for about 10 years. Both work through Panasonic's Arbitrator system, and Randall sees them as complimentary.

"We weren't looking for a replacement of our in-vehicle video, but an alternative or additional perspective to what could be captured on video. We approached it thinking about how we could augment the in-vehicle system to make it more effective for us," Randall said.

Randall says the body-worn cameras have been a great tool for improving field training for officers.

"We want our supervisors to be able to look to see what they're doing right and what they're doing wrong. To see things from their perspective, and then be able to critique it that way too, is very valuable," said Randall.

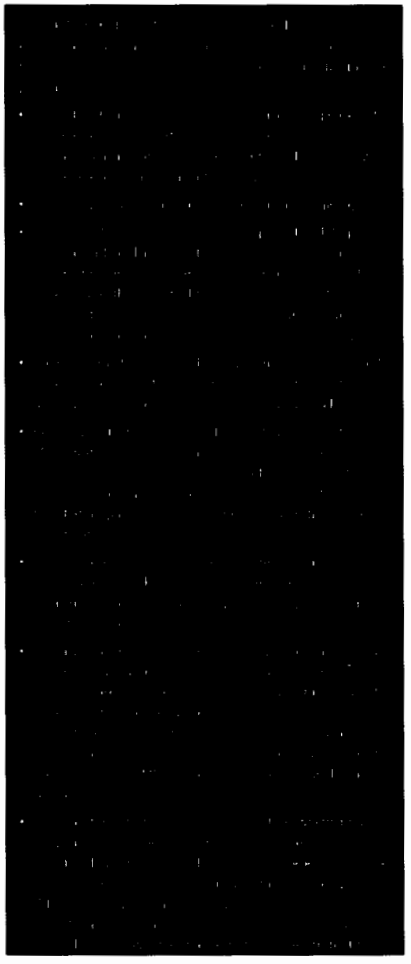
Beyond the benefits in training, just the presence of body-worn cameras has changed the dynamic of the encounters deputies have with the public.

"It's really interesting," said Brazos County Sheriff Chris Kirk, "the presence of cameras has had a definite effect on interactions. We've seen that people, when they realize they're being videoed, kind of calm down a bit."

The de-escalation phenomenon that Kirk has seen is backed up in several studies, too. A year-long Cambridge University study of the Rialto California Police Department that evaluated more than 50,000 hours of interactions with the public found that officers' use of force dropped by 59 percent and complaints against officers dropped by nearly 87.5 percent after their body-worn cameras program was implemented.

But before sheriffs and constables decide to take the next step, it's worth looking at the questions — and the costs — associated with implementing a body-worn camera program.

Focus on the Camera and Equipment



Early positive results, like those in Rialto and in Brazos County, have many stakeholders excited and looking into body-worn cameras. As law enforcement begins evaluating systems to capture and store video, the choices available just in the cameras alone previews the complexity of options that must be weighed.

The cameras themselves though are generally lightweight — most weigh in at around 4 ounces — enabling officers to wear them in a variety of positions: chest, shoulder or head, for example. But weight and where the camera is worn are just two considerations. Battery life, amount of video that can be recorded per shift, the quality of the picture and how the camera operates in low light, among other factors must be taken into account.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which set up the System Assessment and Validation for First Responders Program to make objective assessments of commercial equipment, came up with several recommendations to consider when choosing body-worn cameras:

• An image resolution of at least 640x480;

• A frame rate of at least 25 frames per second;

• A battery life that allows the camera to record continuously for at least three hours;

• Onboard storage, should be able to capture a minimum of three hours of recording; and

• The camera should have a low lux rating to allow for recording events in low light.

DHS notes that camera placement can affect picture stability. For example, when an officer is running or involved in a physical altercation, the footage could be shaky. Many of the newer generations of cameras come with image stabilization now. Others include gyroscopes, too.

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Another school of thought is that a head-worn camera allows the head to act as a sort of natural gyroscope that reduces at least some of the shakiness. It also ensures that the camera will record more of what the officer sees, possibly providing more insight into their perspective on the scene, while chest or shoulder-worn cameras will only record what's directly in front of the officer's body.

"Anybody considering outfitting with body-worn cameras needs to really understand the capabilities of the technology. You can't let the budget be the main driver of the decision. There are inexpensive ways to equip your people, but that doesn't necessarily equate to the best technology or the results you need," said Kirk.

Factors like functionality, storage capacity and battery life have a real impact on the cost of cameras. The prices can range anywhere from as little as $120 to almost $2,000 for each device. According to a 2014 Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) study, "Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program," most agencies spent between $800 and $1,200 per camera.

There is more to the picture than just cameras. Docking stations can run upwards of $1,000. Plus there's storage to think about and digital evidence systems to automate the cataloging of a flood of new video files and metadata.

Other costs include the administrative time needed to manage a body-worn camera program, handle training, tech support and ensure that everyone is in compliance with policy and the law. Indirect costs include the extra time officers might need to spend reviewing and cataloging videos, making sure they're properly uploaded into the storage database. There's also the time needed to download and potentially redact videos as appropriate to comply with public information requests. Some more sophisticated storage solutions can automate some of these processes, but nothing can completely eliminate the need for the human component.

It all adds up.

Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool (TAC RMP) members may be eligible for reimbursement of some costs associated with implementing body-worn cameras. This voluntary program allows TAC RMP members participating in qualified lines of coverage to annually seek reimbursement for the costs associated with implementing approved risk control projects, including the implementation of body-worn cameras.

While TAC RMP can offer some cost mitigation assistance through reimbursement, the initial investment in deploying body-worn cameras does pay its own dividends. If a picture is worth a thousand words, what is good quality video worth? Early evidence suggests body-worn cameras reduce the cost to prosecute.

"Our deputies aren't having to come back in and go to court," said Randall. "That's a huge savings to reduce or eliminate the overtime and comp time for guys to testify in court. They might still get subpoenaed, but often they don't end up having to go because the video speaks for itself."

The Full Picture: Data Storage

While the body-worn cameras themselves are relatively inexpensive, the cost of retaining and disposing of the videos on servers per state guidelines, upload and download time, organizing them in a searchable way and redacting them per privacy policies can quickly eclipse the cost of cameras.

Policy and storage requirements are driven by new state law. Lawmakers passed Senate Bill 158 by Sen. Royce West (D-Dallas) during the 84th legislative session, which created a statewide policy for body camera programs used by law enforcement agencies.

"This is a bill that provides local law enforcement agencies with a choice," West said, laying out the bill. "A local office doesn't have to have a body camera program, but if they have a body camera program, there are some policies that need to have some uniformity across the state of Texas."

The law affords reasonable discretion on when and when not to record. The policy cannot require officers to keep their camera activated for an entire shift, but does set forth guidelines for when cameras should be activated, and also notes that there are instances where it might be neither practical nor possible for an officer to activate the camera.

"It's important for counties to establish a body-worn camera policy if they decided to implement their use," said TAC Law Enforcement Consultant Thomas Kerss.

As part of the preparation to deploy, TAC RMP has partnered with the Public Agency Training Council (PATC) to provide a set of critical task model policies to every county law enforcement agency in Texas. These now include a model policy on the use of body-worn cameras.

Even with video control guidelines, body cams produce vast amounts of data both in video and the metadata used to track and manage the video clips for retention and chain of custody preservation purposes. Captured footage must be retained for set minimum periods of time set by the state. All footage must be retained for at least 90 days. At the low end, evidentiary video of Class C Misdemeanors must be kept for at least 6 months. Footage related to first-degree and capital felonies must be retained for 50 years.

Brazos County looks at evidentiary video the same way as it does physical evidence. The county stores videos associated with criminal cases indefinitely. They are only removed from the system after receiving a destruction order from the prosecutor, just as in any other evidentiary matter.

"The video may not have physically sat in a property room, but it sat physically on our server somewhere, so we treat it like our physical evidence," said Randall.

Storage requirements that can stretch into decades mean law enforcement will need to find a way balance the massive storage needs of the digital evidence room with the hard numbers of the budget. On the most basic level, the choices for storage are either onsite servers maintained by the county, or out in the cloud. Each comes with benefits and challenges.

"We manage our data with onsite county servers. To us that was important; we didn't want a third party vendor holding our data. It belongs to us, and we can testify to anything that goes on with that data. It's accessible to us and we manage it," said Randall

With 49 body-worn cameras as well as in-vehicle video systems, booking video and interview video, the Brazos County Sherriff's Office has an average of about 7.5 terabytes of data stored on the county servers at any given time.

"How you capture video and where you store it is one thing," said Randall, "but how you access and use that video is the more important thing to us."

Randall said one of the main factors considered when selecting an evidence management software vendor was finding something that integrated with their current system, and would help them organize their body-worn camera footage, in-vehicle video, booking video and interview room video, too.

They needed something that would save to the same backend server, so when deputies returned to the office, they only had to go to one location to retrieve video for review, classification and tagging. By storing everything on the same enterprise network, all the digital information the county has on file for a case, including all video, can be pulled up by authorized users, including the prosecutor, just by plugging in the case number.

"There are efficiencies to being on site. If a video is given that criminal classification, the prosecutor's office has immediate access through the enterprise network. We don't have to burn a disk, we don't have to make a copy. They can log in and view that at their desktop at the courthouse immediately," said Randall.

Cloud storage technology has not traditionally been an option for law enforcement. Most cloud computing platforms haven't met the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) requirements. Companies like TASER, Microsoft's Azure Government Cloud and Amazon now offer cloud storage products that do meet the CJIS standards. Other big players like IBM are believed to be looking at toeholds in this market, too.

There is an industry trend towards cloud storage now, with some analysts citing figures ranging from 20 to 50 percent savings over an onsite system. Critics argue that this doesn't take into account the full range of costs still involved in using the cloud.

Cloud storage solutions could provide smaller law enforcement operations with a degree of security they may not be able to develop on their own. But bandwidth could be a concern when uploading video to the cloud, particularly for more rural counties. It's something that should be investigated before committing to a cloud storage vendor.

Regardless of whether a county chooses to use cloud services or an onsite solution, Kirk advises taking a big picture approach to public safety that is not solely from the perspective of the sheriff's office. He spoke with all four of the Brazos County constables and brought them on board and engaged IT in the process, too. Kirk credits his inclusive and collaborative approach for the buy-in he was able to get from the commissioners court early on with the county's body-worn camera program.

"It needs to be a partnership with IT, with all of law enforcement in the county, with prosecutors and the courts, and how they can embrace the technology. It can't just be about the sheriff," said Kirk, "you have to bring everybody on board." ▪


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