

Program #15403 - Body Worn Cameras Unit
FY 2026 Proposed
Department: District Attorney

Program Contact: Peter Simpson

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Program Description

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office (MCDA) Body Worn Camera (BWC) Unit receives approximately 1,000 cases and 2,800 hours of BWC footage each month from the Portland Police Bureau, Gresham Police Department, Port of Portland Police Bureau, Portland State University Police, and Oregon Health Sciences University Police. The sample size for these numbers are September - December 2024, after PPB completely deployed their BWC program. The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) has yet to deploy a BWC program but may have their rollout in 2025/26.

The BWC Unit is also managing all digital evidence submissions to MCDA from all Multnomah County law enforcement agencies as well as from crime victims and witnesses. This includes photographs and non-BWC video (like interview rooms, surveillance video, etc.). Additionally, the BWC Unit is tasked with video editing and redaction for court.

BWC Unit staff are able to review approximately 17% of BWC footage submitted to MCDA for felony crimes. Felony person crime cases (where the suspect is in custody) are the priority. For example, Attempted Murder II, felony assault, domestic violence, sex crimes, and Assault on a Public Safety Officer.

The average length of BWC video per case is approximately three hours. The BWC video footage is reviewed to write summaries of evidence and flags potential legal and constitutional issues surrounding suspect statements, search and seizure and officer conduct, among others. The written review is then communicated to the reviewing Deputy District Attorney (DDA) who will use it to completely assess all the submitted evidence in the case and make a charging decision. The BWC investigative staff edit video footage for trial and redact video footage before it is released to protect the identity of vulnerable witnesses or to comply with the mandate of a court order. The BWC Legal Assistants are responsible for BWC discovery to defense and verifying the audit trail to prevent copying or altering BWC video evidence.

In order to fulfill obligations to the community, when properly resourced, all BWC footage should be viewed prior to charging a community member with a crime. BWC footage allows DDAs to view crime scenes and witness/victim/suspect interviews through an unfiltered lens. Police conduct and interaction with the community can be meaningfully monitored and procedures put in place to increase police accountability, reduce disparity and increase equity. Transparency and system confidence increase by virtue of additional objective evidence available for subsequent review.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Hours of body camera footage reviewed	1901	638	3764	3764
Output	Hours of body camera footage received	7035	17,800	32,544	32,544

Performance Measures Descriptions

Note: Increase due to PPB coming fully online with their body worn cameras.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$545,998	\$0	\$366,447	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$264,032	\$0	\$264,032	\$0
Internal Services	\$52,634	\$0	\$11,951	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$862,664	\$0	\$642,430	\$0
Program Total:	\$862,664		\$642,430	
Program FTE	3.00	0.00	2.25	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 15403A Body Worn Cameras Unit

To better align with operations, moved DDA FTE to the Justice Integrity Unit (15021).