

DIGITAL EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (DEMS) & BODY-WORN CAMERAS (BWC)

Presentation to HRM Board of Police Commissioners

June 17, 2024



HALIFAX

Introduction

- Background
- Current Status
- Benefits of DEMS and BWCs
- Program Requirements & Estimated Costs
- Estimated Timeline



Background

- Originating motion – January 18, 2021:

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners support Body-Worn Video in principal and ask the Chief of Halifax Regional Police to develop the appropriate policies and work plan related to rolling out a program and come back to the Board with the budget asks for the upcoming 2021-22 budget (for development of a policy and to conduct a Privacy Impact Assessment) and for the 2022-23 budget for potential implementation subject to Capital Budget approval.

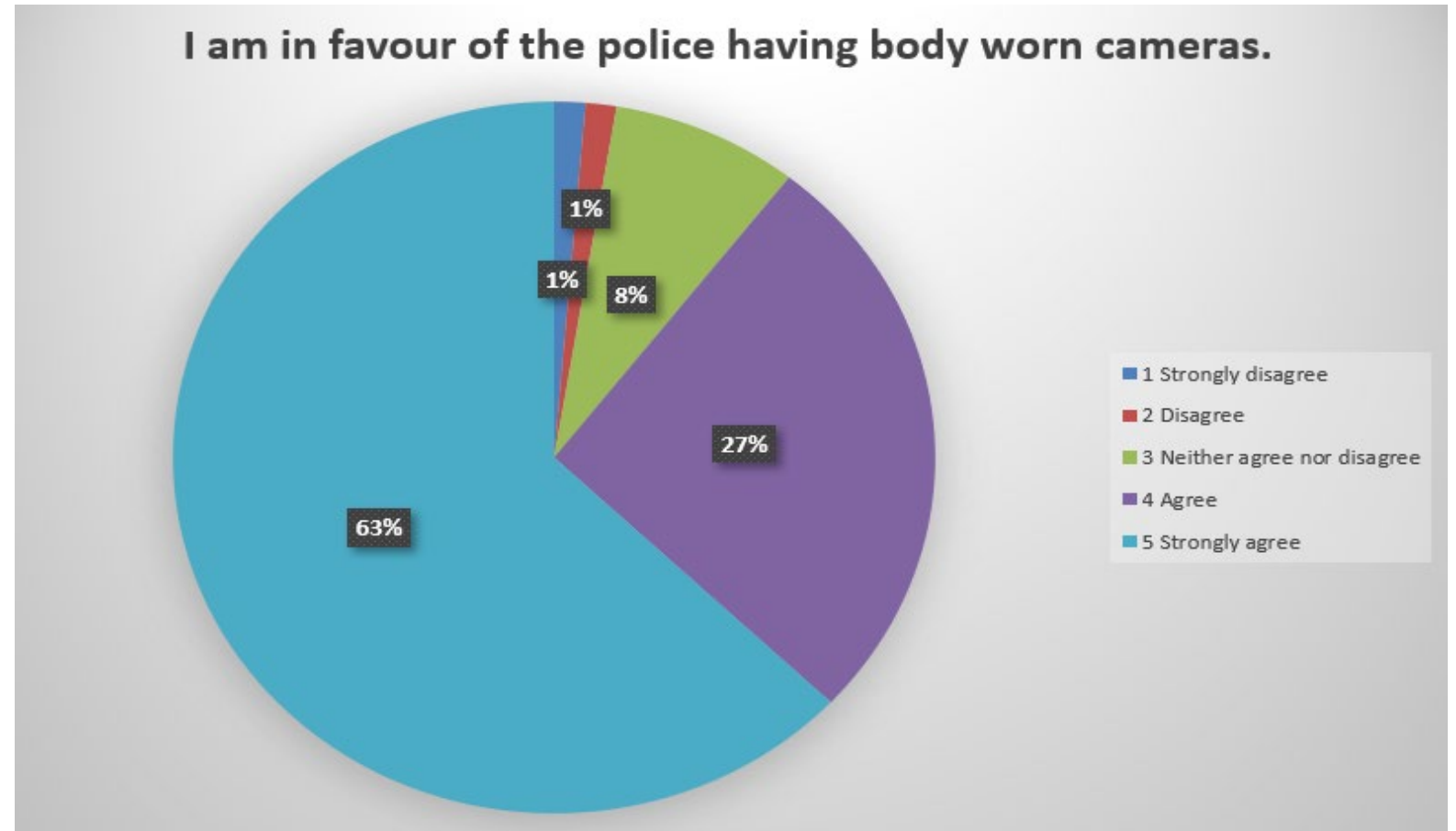
- Position of BWC Coordinator requested and included in 2021/22 budget but was not filled



Background

2021 HRM Resident Survey – September 2021

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Strongly disagree | 20 |
| Disagree | 20 |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 119 |
| Agree | 397 |
| Strongly agree | 943 |



Current Status

- RCMP Pilot Program in progress
- RCMP and CACP policies developed and publicly available
<https://rcmp.ca/en/corporate-information/policies/operational-manual-chapter-255-body-worn-video>
https://www.cacp.ca/Library/resources/202109011406171664275977_cacpbodyworncamerapolicyframeworkfebruary2021.pdf
- BWC Coordinator position reinstated in the 2024/25 budget
- Updated details and estimated costs obtained from Axon, for Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS), Body Worn Cameras (BWCs), and Fleet cameras



Current Status

Additional pressures and expectations since 2021:

- Increase in FTEs and vehicles
- Advancement of Records Management Optimization Program
- Implementation of 'e-disclosure' (electronic disclosure of material in charge files) in partnership with the Public Prosecution Service
- Ever-increasing volume, type and complexity of digital evidence, which requires capture, storage, and potentially redaction and disclosure



Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS)

- Cloud storage point for all digital evidence, including BWC and vehicle footage
- Protected chain of custody of evidence
- Tools include redaction, transcription, syncing of footage
- In use by several Canadian police agencies



Benefits of DEMS and BWCs

- Increased efficiencies, including reduced officer time and reduced storage pressures, in the capturing, storing, sharing, and auditing of digital evidence
- Tested and proven security and encryption, which will build upon the work completed within the Information Security audit of HRP by the HRM Auditor General
- Capture and use of evidence in investigations (criminal, traffic, sudden deaths, public complaints)
- Use of BWC footage for training and improving performance
- Enhanced transparency and accountability



Program Requirements & Estimated Costs

- Procurement – as permitted by policy, the federal agreement would be explored
- Robust regulatory framework, to include policy and PIA
- Staffing requirements for both implementation and business-as-usual e.g., the resources for redaction and disclosure are estimated at 1 FTE (civilian) per 75 BWCs
- Additional IT, project, and support resources will be required to implement and maintain the program



Program Requirements & Estimated Costs

- Community engagement will be initiated early on and remain ongoing, through and past implementation
- Options for providing information and seeking feedback include in-person sessions, website material, media releases



Program Requirements & Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to provide and maintain the following equipment and services over the first five-year period is approximately \$2.4million per year (including taxes).

This figure does not include associated staffing costs.

Please note that this estimate has been obtained based on an initial assessment of requirements and may be subject to change.



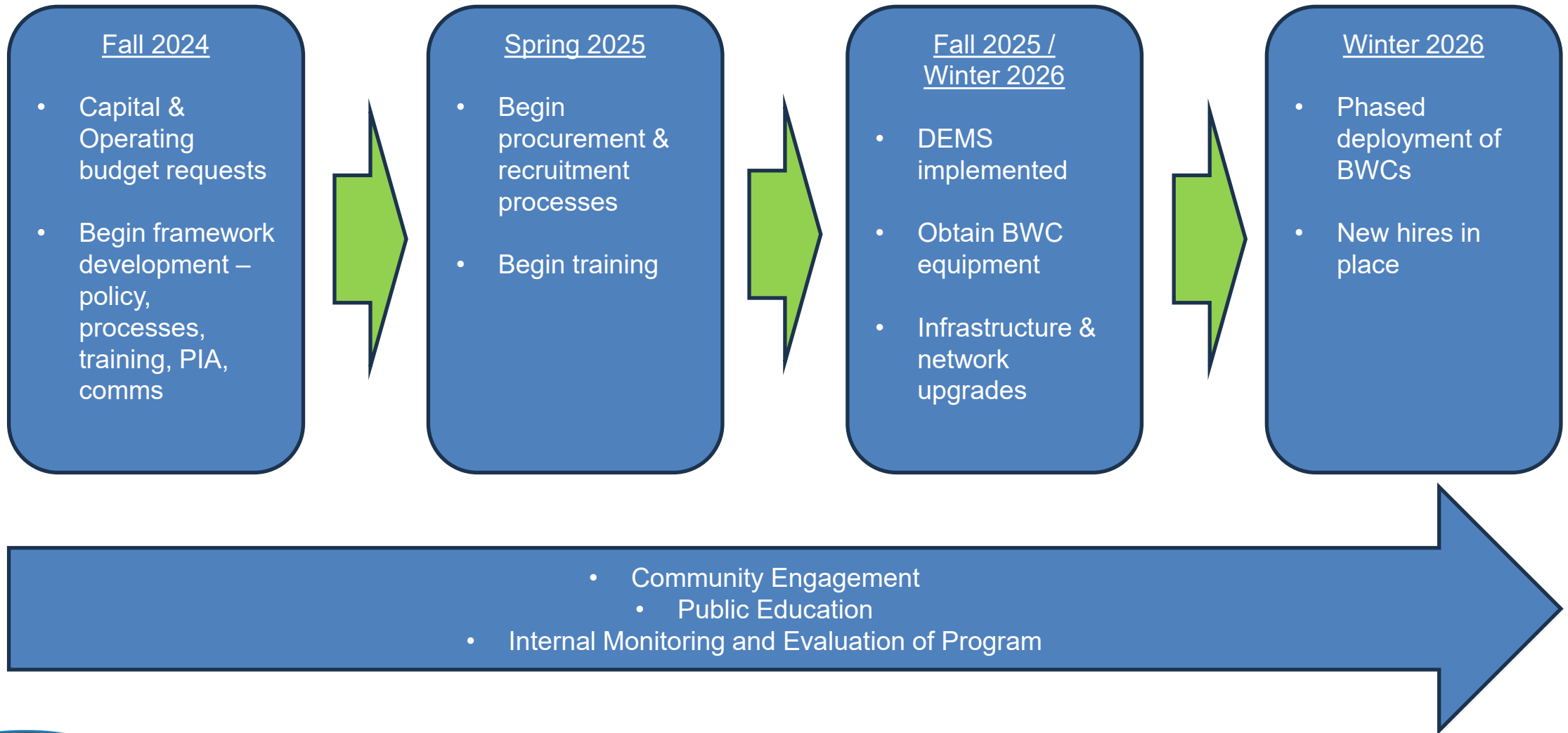
Program Requirements & Estimated Costs

Equipment and services:

- 400 BWCs (individual issue) and 25 BWCs (pool issue), including all hardware, with replacements at 30 and 60 months
- 600 DEMS licenses (required for all BWC users, with additional licenses for users without BWCs, such as CID members)
- DEMS capabilities of auto-transcription, auto-redaction, tagging
- 120 vehicle cameras (front and rear), with replacement at 60 months
- Unlimited cloud storage



Estimated Timeline



QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION

