

Body-Worn Cameras

September 10, 2021

Department Mission

The mission of the San Francisco Fire Department is to protect the lives and property of the people of San Francisco and its visitors from fires, natural disasters, accidents, hazardous materials incidents, and other causes requiring a rapid and skilled response by land or water; serve the needs of its most vulnerable residents through community paramedicine, and save lives and reduce suffering by providing emergency medical services; prevent harm through prevention services and education programs; and to provide a work environment that is free from harassment and discrimination, and values health, wellness, cultural diversity, and equity.

Authorized Use Cases

- 1. Public Information Officer (PIO) Incident
- 2. Fire Investigator Scene Review (potential use case)
- 3. Training Academy Documentation (N/A)

Technology Description

Body-worn camera technology for our Public Information Officer currently being evaluated. Captures SFFD response on scene to incidents for training and other purposes.

Alternatives to Technology

- Staff videographer FTE not as flexible
- Personnel/ equipment costs on an annual basis

Process Map - Current State

Body Camera video steps:

- Video captured by body camera, then video uploaded securely from charger/base station to cloud
- Video stored securely on vendor server, with all data encrypted
- Automatic Redaction (faces, license plates, etc.)
- Accessed by approved users with log-in required
- User log is created with all user actions time-stamped and noted, creating audit trail

Process Map – Future State

Body Camera technology proposed future steps:

- Set-up more comprehensive user structure for groups, given customizable permissions
- Additional training
- Reconciling use with other Departmental use cases

Other Details as needed

- Vendor currently in use is Axon
- Working on updated data agreement needs and requirements as we approach procurement of camera system for employee training
- Developing enhanced data retention schedules for new uses as part of records retention policy revisions

Questions