STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Office of the Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor

Angel Quiros
Commissioner

BODY WORN CAMERAS REPORT

The Department of Correction (DOC) submits the following report regarding the potential to institute body worn cameras (BWC) for staff in correctional facilities as required by Connecticut General Statutes 18-81nn.

The statute requires:

> *"(e) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Correction shall develop a plan for the implementation of body-worn recording equipment in correctional facilities. Not later than February 1, 2026, the commissioner shall report such plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety, government oversight and the Department of Correction. Such plan shall include recommendations for any legislation necessary to implement such plan, the budgetary resources required for the implementation of such plan and the department's timeline for implementation of such plan, if such budgetary resources are made available."*

Background – The Department of Correction, pursuant to its mission statement, strives to be a leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support responsive evidence-based practices geared toward supporting reintegration and reducing recidivism under the Departments supervision. Safety and security shall be a priority component of this responsibility, coinciding with an unwavering respect for the human dignity of staff, victims, citizens, and offenders.

The agency is committed to maintaining safe and secure institutions for staff working in the facilities and the incarcerated population in our care. DOC installed four body scanners in our facilities several months ago: 2 at York Correctional Institution (CI) and 2 at Manson Youth. In the first six weeks of operation, nearly 4,000 scans were completed, reducing the use of strip searches and mitigating opportunity for contraband introduction. Expanding deployment of body scanners to the remaining 11 facilities will strengthen safety for staff and inmates in custody.

Governor Lamont has proposed in the FY 2027 Governors Midterm Budget Adjustments $10 million to support security infrastructure enhancements and operational safety improvements in correctional facilities. This broad tranche of funding will support efforts including, but not limited to, new doors, information technology upgrades, facility security cameras and systems, and other work to ensure the safety of staff and inmates in our state's correctional facilities.

The agency is also currently partnering with DAS Bits to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funding to enhance broadband coverage across facilities in order to further enhance safety, support education, and enhance re-entry initiatives for the incarcerated population.

The current efforts underway, and the Governor's proposed budget, highlight the department's ongoing commitment to improving safety, security, and the current operational model of camera deployment. Body worn recording devices remain cost prohibitive. As further detailed in later sections, initial cost examinations, based on competitive national bids, present an annual cost of approximately $19.5 million or $200 million over a ten-year contract requirement. These costs only cover equipment, software, software redaction, and data storage. More resources would be required for facilities improvements to support and network body worn cameras, and personnel requirements to manage the daily recording of thousands of hours interactions.

Budgetary Resources

The annual equipment and technical support cost of implementing BWC to staff across the identified locations is $19,493,036.10 per year or $194,930,036.10 in total for a ten-year contract with national vendor Axon (based on national competitive bid source). The contract provides for hardware, software, storage, technical support, and training.

Connecticut State Police are currently deploying a similar model contract with Axon which includes fewer camera deployments but adds additional software, in vehicle cameras, interview rooms, drones, and other technologies. The cost of that contract is estimated at $121 million over ten years and supports approximately 1,000 staff.

DOC would need to outfit a custody and parole staffing of approximately 4,500 personnel. A deployment in any emergency services or correctional setting is additionally challenging given the shift requirements that devices be charged, ready, and available during a shift change over - requiring additional devices and limiting option for shared devices. (Attachment)

Hardware
2,171 Axon Body 4 Cameras (1,895 DOC + 136 Parole): $899 per unit
273 8-bay Docking Stations: $1,593 per unit
Axon Kiosk - Device Sharing System
Software
4,504 Profiles (Software Licensing - CO, Supervisors, Parole, Admin)
Unlimited Storage
Warranty
Full warranty on all hardware for life of contract. Replace as new.

Technology Assurance
3 Refreshes/no cost upgrades of Technology across 10yr contract. Ensuring agency equipment is up to date, operational, and advancing. Never be technologically obsolete.
Support / Training
3 weeks of Strategic Deployment Manager support. Onsite with training, account creation, organizational structure of evidence management system, admin + officer training, customization of workflow and categories of retention specific to CT DOC, full-time support beyond the three week mark for remainder of contract. 24/7 Support line.

Staffing/Cost

The data captured with BWC implementation will require additional staff to maintain the system (issuing, charging, docking, tracking the BWC), capture and investigate events that occur (emergencies, disagreements, complaints of misconduct, investigations), and respond to preservation requests (freedom of information, spoliation requests, ombuds, litigation holds). Staffing levels in Massachusetts DOC were used as a template to determine appropriate staff levels to support implementation. (Attachment)

A Body Worn Camera Redaction Unit based out of central office would be responsible for training, implementation, policy support, troubleshooting, processing preservation of evidence requests, redaction responsibilities, and assisting facilities to stay compliant with policy. DOC has similar structure for Phone/Tablet monitoring with a Captain and team of correction officers.

Body Worn Camera Redaction Unit (Central Office)

- 1 Lieutenant – 5 day post
- 6 Correction Officers – 7 day post

Eleven facilities will each require a Captain position responsible for monitoring and completing entries into cloud storage (all recorded events such as use of force, emergency response, arguments or any other footage requiring activation in accordance with policy), coordinate video retention for disciplinary hearings, and coordinate the gathering of all video evidence related to use of force incidents.

Body Camera Captain (Facility based) – 5 day post

- Captain on each shift responsible

Each facility will require an added correction officer post responsible for the inspection, issuance, accountability, docking, charging, replacement and maintenance of body worn cameras and ensuring all staff are compliant with policy.

Body Worn Camera Officer (Facility based) – 7 day post

- 1 Correction Officer per shift

Implementation Timeline

If the agency were to implement body worn cameras, the effort would require equipping 13 correctional facilities, 5 parole district offices, the Correctional Transportation Unit, and 2 K9 units. With over 3,500 uniformed staff, this effort would require a systematically phased approach in order to ensure all staff and each location is properly trained and supported prior to moving to the next location.

Massachusetts DOC implemented a system wide body worn camera program in 2024, purchasing approximately 3,000 cameras to deploy in 15 locations. Capitalizing on their experience the timeline for rollout in each location would be approximately 4 to 6 weeks dependent on the size of the location and number of staff to train.

Location	Admin Training	End User Training	# of body cams
MacDougall-Walker	2 weeks	4 weeks	300
York	1 week	3 weeks	210
Manson	1 week	2 weeks	115
Cheshire	1 week	3 weeks	205
Garner	1 week	3 weeks	150
Corrigan	1 week	3 weeks	165
Hartford	1 week	3 weeks	130
New Haven	1 week	3 weeks	130
Bridgeport	1 week	2 weeks	110
Robinson	1 week	3 weeks	145
Osborn	1 week	3 weeks	180
Cybulski	1 week	2 weeks	70
Brooklyn	1 week	2 weeks	45
Parole Offices	1 week	2 weeks	136
CTU/K9	1 week	2 weeks	80 (60 CTU/20 K9)

Total timeline for implementation including procurement and training is estimated at twelve to eighteen months, including allowance for continuous improvement. The Department will likely require additional time to review legal requirements.

Potential Benefits/Substantial Change

The implementation of BWCs within the DOC will enhance a consistent, objective record of correctional operations and critical incidents. Experience from other states and peer-reviewed research have shown that body-worn cameras improve safety, accountability, transparency and operational efficiency in high-risk correctional environments.

The introduction of BWC would materially affect staff duties and surveillance practices, they may be considered a substantial change in working conditions requiring notice and potential bargaining.

Conclusion

This report underscores both the opportunities and complexities that come with managing a complex correctional system. DOC continues to operate in an environment that demands constant attention to safety, professionalism, and operational effectiveness. Significant work is already underway to strengthen DOT's ongoing commitment to improving safety and security.

The implementation of body worn cameras would provide significant benefits to the agency in terms of transparency, accountability, and safety. It is also a complex and resource intensive initiative that requires careful planning, infrastructure investment, and ongoing operational support.