



SFY2026 Body Worn Camera Grant Program Application

Massachusetts Office of Grants and Research (OGR), Justice and Prevention Division

Introduction

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR), a state agency that is part of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), will make available approximately **\$3,490,000** in funding for municipal law enforcement to establish and implement body-worn camera (BWC) programs. Grants funds may be used to create a BWC program, expand an existing BWC program or replace outdated equipment. This AGF is the final round of funding in a five-year BWC program. This AGF is the final round of funding in a five-year BWC program. All municipalities that have a BWC need are encouraged to take advantage of this funding opportunity. All municipalities that have a BWC need are encouraged to take advantage of this funding opportunity.

No award may exceed **\$250,000**. For budgeting purposes, the anticipated average cost for a BWC is approximately \$1,000; the anticipated average cost for server(s) for video storage is approximately \$1,000 per BWC.

Applicant Eligibility

Only a police department from a Massachusetts municipality (local unit of government) is eligible to apply. Each department must ensure that they will provide:

- copies of their Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Wear Policy, and
- collective bargaining approval or a statement attesting that an attempt was made in good faith to obtain collective bargaining support

For more details, please review the Availability of Grant Funds on our [website](#).

Key Dates

AGF Posted: **Wednesday, October 29, 2025**
Application Due: **Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 4:00pm**
Anticipated Award Announcements: **December 2025**
Performance Period: **January 2026 to June 20, 2026**

Please email all questions related to this application to **Program Coordinator Allison Garvey** at **Allison.C.Garvey@mass.gov**

Directions

Please complete all sections in this application.

The "Save" feature at the bottom of each page allows you to save your responses and provides you with a unique link to return at a later time without losing any information you have entered. Please save periodically to avoid losing any information. If you mistakenly close the page before saving, your responses will not be saved. Once you have completed all relevant sections in the application, click the "Submit" button.

Please note that once you submit the application, you will not be able to edit your responses.

Applicant Name

Somerville Police Department

Applicant Address

220 Washington St., Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

Senior Agency Official Contact

Name

Richard Lavey

Job Title

Deputy Chief

Email

rlavey@police.somerville.ma.us

Phone

(617) 625-1600 x7203

Is the Senior Agency Official Contact mailing address the same as the agency address (physical location)?

Yes

Grant Point of Contact

Name

Emily Wisdom

Job Title

Director of Administration and Finance

Email

ewisdom@police.somerville.ma.us

Phone

(617) 625-1600 x7239

Is the Grant Point of Contact mailing address the same as the agency address (physical location)?

Yes

Fiscal Contract Manager Contact

Name

Leonor Moni

Job Title

Grants Manager

Email

lmoni@police.somerville.ma.us

Phone

(617) 625-1600 x7293

Is the Fiscal Contract Manager Contact mailing address the same as the agency address (physical location)?

Yes

Civil Rights Officer Contact

Name

Devin Schneider

Job Title

Sergeant

Email

Dschneider@police.somerville.ma.us

Phone

(617) 625-1600 x7237

Applicants' Acadis training records must be up to date within the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC.) Please confirm if your Acadis training is up to date:

Yes

Project Summary

Provide a summary of the proposal outlined in this application.

The City of Somerville, MA is applying for a grant allocation of \$249,807 as part of the Law Enforcement Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Program. Following five years of engagement with union representatives, the City's BWC program policy and implementation plan was developed with the input of multiple internal and community stakeholders. This process has included the creation of a new policy approved via collective bargaining; in addition, a two-year Public Safety for All Task Force named body-worn cameras as a top community priority.

This grant will allow the City to move forward with the contracting of services and purchasing of technology needed to implement a body-worn camera program, thus further advancing its goals of trust building between the Somerville Police Department (SPD) and local residents and increased transparency. It will greatly support City efforts to enhance the accuracy of officer reports and court testimony while increasing pathways for community oversight and civil liberty protections for our residents.

BWCs will provide both our officers and residents a shared system of oversight and evaluation that will prove invaluable in the decades ahead.

Select the priority area that best fits your departments needs:

Municipality who is a first time applicant wishing to implement a BWC program with these funds or a previous BWC awardee who was not able to implement their program within the allowable contract period due to unforeseen challenges but could do so now if awarded again.

Application Narrative

Needs Assessment:

Use the space provided to provide department metrics and current/planned BWC program status within the agency.

Total Number of Sworn Officers in Agency:

123

Total Number of Sworn Officers for whom the project expects to provide BWC's as a result of this grant:

119

Expected number of BWC's to be purchased with the requested funds:

124

Number of sworn officers with patrol activities or daily citizen interactions in the field:

123

Please indicate whether or not your municipality currently has a Body Worn Camera Program

No

Please expand on the funding priority selected above and describe the need for a BWC program or the status of your current BWC program. Include details regarding the need for new cameras or the need for replacement equipment/technology upgrade.

As a first-time grant applicant without a currently implemented BWC program, these funds would provide a vital and needed source of funding. The availability of resources to purchase the necessary technology and equipment for body-worn cameras has been a topic of conversation since the City declared such a program a public safety priority in June of 2020. These grant funds for contracting and equipment would allow resources to be spent on other staffing and administrative requirements to move program implementation forward.

Describe any other funding sources, if available, that are/will be available to support the new or existing BWC program:

Once grant funds are allocated, the City will prioritize municipal funding options on other administrative program needs. This includes collaboration between relevant departments, the Mayoral Administration, and the City Council. As noted, community stakeholders have made clear through multiple engagement processes that this program is a public safety priority, and municipal funding will intend to reflect that as such.

Project Description:

Use the space provided to:

- Clearly describe the goods to be purchased and their BWC implementation plan.
- Discuss the purpose for purchasing said equipment; where the program will take place/equipment will be used/stored; who will utilize or be responsible for the upkeep, monitoring and maintenance of such goods, etc. and any other info that may be helpful to justify the funding request.
- Describe the operational procedures and tracking mechanisms that will be implemented to address the use, review, access, storage, retention, redaction, and deletion of digital evidence media (DEM.)
- Please provide information on who will have access to and the sharing of body worn camera

- footage by agency personnel, prosecutors, criminal justice stakeholders, and the community
- Describe the training protocols for officers, supervisors, and administrations on body worn camera use and policy
 - Describe any local procurement rules and regulations required in order to purchase the items or services described.
 - Describe the expected benefit (outcome) for the law enforcement officer and/or department and community as a result of receiving a grant award.
 - Explain how the jurisdiction will sustain and maintain the Body Worn Camera program during and after the end of the grant period of performance. Include projected costs after one full year of implementation
 - Include the status of negotiations with the department's union(s) to acquire collective bargaining approval of the purchase of body-worn cameras and implementation of a body-worn camera wear police.

Project Description

In June of 2020, the City of Somerville officially declared systemic racism to be a public safety and health emergency. In doing so, it reiterated its commitment to negotiating and implementing a body-worn camera policy for its police department amid ongoing discussions with police union leadership on the subject since 2015. In March of 2021, the City and union leadership for the patrol and superior officers came to an agreement, memorialized in their respective CBAs, to move forward with this initiative.

As the City Council debated and considered program implementation, community conversation and analysis on the need for body-worn cameras continued. A police operations and staffing analysis released in November of 2023 recommended a renewed community engagement process to further refine the City's Body Worn Camera Policy. This was done through the "Public Safety for All Task Force" led by the City's Racial and Social Justice Department. This process led community leaders and subject matter experts to once again recommend the use of body-worn cameras to support the goals of transparency and community-informed policing techniques that build trust and legitimacy with residents.

Those goals became particularly acute following the political climate surrounding public safety and policing in the summer of 2020. Amid that national movement, morale and hiring challenges within SPD increased. The implementation of a BWC program is a critical step to rebuilding trust with community members and providing an accountability tool that officers and residents alike can rely upon as those challenges continue to be addressed.

The City intends for body-worn cameras to provide persuasive documentary evidence for criminal investigations, internal or administrative investigations, and civil litigation. The use of this new technology will enhance the accuracy of officer reports and court testimony while concurrently providing community members a tool for oversight and civil liberty protections. These grant funds will go towards the purchasing of 119 body-worn cameras and 5 backup cameras; associated required supplies such as batteries, video transfer stations, and upload docks; and third-party installation fees and training. Solicitation of vendors will be subject to municipal procurement processes and regulations as a first step towards program implementation.

As stated in the SPD policy provided with the supplemental materials of this application, officers will activate the body-worn camera before initiating contact with a citizen, as well as at the beginning of any other law enforcement or investigative encounter. Officers will provide verbal notice at the beginning of any encounter whenever possible and allow for a citizen to prevent its use in an environment that has a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as personal residences, places of worship, legal offices, etc.

As part of program implementation planning, a location will be finalized within the headquarters of the

Somerville Police Department for the docking of technology and data storage needs of all footage no later than the end of each shift or work period. This data will be password-protected and only available to the Chief of Police, as well as a designated superior officer who will supervise and oversee the program. The City proposes a five-tiered scheduled data retention system that includes indefinite storage for use of deadly force or any fatality-related system and a 7-year retention for any incident involving the use of any force.

Police personnel who are assigned body-worn cameras will be required to complete a vendor-delivered training for supervisors and a broader training program to address technical concerns, proper usage, and general operations for all staff. Ongoing and periodic training will be designed to ensure the continued effective use and operation of the equipment, proper calibration and performance, and to incorporate changes, updates, or other revisions in policy and equipment. Training best practices will be implemented based upon state guidelines as well as recommendations and lessons learned from neighboring municipalities that are able to provide evaluative data and information as training protocols are further developed.

The sharing of footage from body-worn cameras with external stakeholders will comply with the Public Records Law (M.G.L. c. 66, § 10). Additionally, the City will explore its use for further aims of transparency and trust building in the case of civilian oversight, a key recommendation of the recent Public Safety for All initiative. If a Public Safety Oversight Commission is established, body-worn cameras would provide a key tool for this commission and citizens appearing before it.

The sustainability and maintenance of the body-worn camera program will be subject to approved funding by the municipal City Council. As part of the grant implementation plan, the City will rely upon leadership within the Police Department, Executive Office, Finance Office, and the Legal Department to ensure proper planning to address future financial needs and plan for further resources. This includes the recent hiring of the Public Safety for All Project Manager, a wholly new position dedicated to the implementation and planning for a handful of priority public safety projects, of which body-worn cameras is one.

As previously noted, the City has reached an agreement with the City's police unions concerning the implementation of a body-worn camera program. That agreement included the terms of a body-worn camera policy for the department. As part of the planning process for this initiative, the City has received recommended revisions to the City's Body Worn Camera Policy. The City is in the process of negotiating with the unions over those proposed revisions and hopes to complete those negotiations by the end of this year or early calendar year 2026.

Pertinent information such as graphs or charts may be uploaded on the "Document Upload" page under "Additional Materials."

Implementation Plan

Please discuss your execution plan for this award. This should include how you will ensure the effective implementation and oversight of the project, key activities and milestones, and identification of key partnerships or stakeholders who will play a role in the implementation of this award.

Implementation Plan Summary

Beginning in January of 2026, the Somerville Police Department (SPD), Mayoral Administration, and Procurement and Contracting Services (PCS) will develop formal language for the solicitation of body-worn camera services and equipment for response by third-party vendors.

Concurrently, SPD will internally assess staffing roles and responsibilities for program implementation and management. Not only will this include the assignment of a superior officer dedicated to overall program

supervision, but the development of a Program Manager job description for review by the Administration and City Council. This position will oversee the day-to-day management of equipment, the logging of footage/data transfer, and prepare footage for review for their supervisor and the Chief of Police.

Throughout March and April, elements of both operational and training needs will be emphasized. This includes the creation of an internal training curriculum that utilizes third-party training on technology, best practices from peer municipalities, and specific rules and regulations outlined in existing City policy. Additionally, SPD will work with other City departments to ensure that the existing space identified for equipment and data management is prepared for installation, including elements of functionality, electricity and general operational needs. This will result in full installation of program technology by mid-April of 2026.

In May of 2026, a newly hired Program Manager will collaborate with SPD, the Administration, and the Public Safety for all Project Manager to finalize standard operating system protocols for tracking, incident management, data storage record keeping, and internal pathways of communication with staff at all levels of SPD. It is the City’s intention to pilot the program throughout June, providing opportunities for evaluation and testing to amend existing policy if and when needed.

Objectives, Activities, and Timeline

Activities*	Milestones	Start Date	End Date	Person Responsible
Develop procurement request for BWC services and equipment in line with M.G.L. Ch. 30B	Receive responses from third-party vendors for procurement request	1/3/2026	1/24/2026	Angela Allen, Chief Procurement Officer
Review of procurement responses	Award of procurement response to vendor	1/26/2026	2/13/2026	Angela Allen, Chief Procurement Officer
Formal development of staffing plan for BWC supervisory purposes	SPD submits program staffing chart for review and approval	2/2/2026	2/16/2026	Chief Shumeane Benford, Somerville Police Department
Dependent on staffing assessment, create job description/roles & responsibilities for new BWC Program Manager position	New position job description is approved for consideration	2/16/2026	3/2/2026	Chief Shumeane Benford, Somerville Police Department; Anne Gill, Director of Human Resources

Program Manager position is presented for consideration to Mayoral Administration and City Council	New position is formally approved for application solicitation	3/2/2026	3/20/2026	Chief Shumeane Benford, Somerville Police Department; Matt Sirigu, Asst. City Solicitor / Labor Counsel
Develop internal training curriculum informed by best practices and neighboring/peer municipality protocols and programming.	Internal training curriculum on equipment use, storage, and agreed upon policy protocols is approved for use	3/2/2026	4/6/2026	Chief Shumeane Benford, Somerville Police Department; Deputy Richard Lavey, Somerville Police Department
Ensure dedicated office space within SPD HQ for BWC technology (functionality, electricity and operational needs, storage)	Office space is approved for use to begin equipment installation	3/16/2026	4/6/2026	Deputy Richard Lavey, Somerville Police Department; SPD IT Staff; Department of Public Works
Installation of procured equipment, including docking/charging stations and footage/data transfer system	Equipment is fully installed for piloting and training purposes	4/6/2026	4/20/2026	Deputy Richard Lavey, Somerville Police Department; SPD IT Staff
Schedule third-party "train the trainer" vendor training sessions for SPD staff supervisors on equipment use and storage	All staff supervisor officers are trained on camera usage and storage	4/6/2026	4/24/2026	Chief Shumeane Benford, Somerville Police Department; Deputy Richard Lavey, Somerville Police Department; SPD supervisory

				staff
Implement training of all sworn officers by staff supervisors, combining lessons from "train the trainer" sessions with internal development curriculum	All sworn officers are training on camera usage, storage, and agreed upon BWC protocol policy	5/1/2026	5/29/2026	Chief Shumeane Benford, Somerville Police Department; Deputy Richard Lavey, Somerville Police Department
Newly hired BWC Program Manager develops data management, incident tracking, and systems protocol for piloting purposes	Final project plan for systems protocol is submitted and approved for program pilot	5/1/2026	5/22/2026	Chief Shumeane Benford, Somerville Police Department; Deputy Richard Lavey, Somerville Police Department
BWC Program enters piloting phase for testing and evaluation	Program is finalized for full implementation following one-month evaluation phase	6/1/2026	6/30/2026	Chief Shumeane Benford, Somerville Police Department; Deputy Richard Lavey, Somerville Police Department

**Include a bidding process for contract and/or equipment purchases*

Budget

Dollar amount of funding requested in your application

\$249,807.00

Budget Narrative

For each cost category that has an associated funding request in the Budget Excel Worksheet (Attachment A), please provide an overall description and justification of that cost category. The budget category narratives should describe what the budget entails, why the items in that category are needed, and how the budgeted amount was determined. Please include any hires under personnel, a particular training, supplies needed, vendor information or process for selecting a vendor, where applicable. Applicants

should submit a budget for *up to* approximately 6 months.

The budget narrative for each cost category should not be a copy-paste list of the budget item list from your Budget Excel Worksheet - you are expected to justify the need for those items as outlined above.

Does the budget for this project include contract costs?

Yes

Contracts Narrative

Mobile Video Deployment Services Installation and Setup:

Contracts Costs

\$30,000.00

This line item will allow for a third-party vendor to fully install all needed technology and project management service needs on-site for the BWC program. Based on quotes received and the size of the potential program, we expect the requested amount will cover the one-time need for this service. This includes all data storage, data transfer, and footage review operations for program implementation.

Does the budget for this project include equipment & technology costs?

Yes

Equipment & Technology Narrative

BWC with in-camera storage:

Equipment & Technology Costs

\$201,635.00

This line item will support the purchasing of 119 BWCs with in-camera storage for active use in the field for nearly all SPD officers. Based on quotes received, we expect this line item to cover this key item for program implementation.

Video Transfer Station:

This line item will provide 14 transfer stations for the continuous offloading of any footage recorded via BWCs. It also ensures BWCs are up to date and functioning as any technological improvements are achieved. Based on quotes we received, we expect this line item to fully fund all data transfer needs in line with the amount of footage likely to be recorded.

USB Charge/Upload Dock:

This line item will provide 15 charging dock stations that both charge BWCs as well as initiate the uploading of data to transfer stations. Based on quotes received, we expect this line item to fully fund this equipment need.

Does the budget for this project include supplies costs?

Yes

Supplies Narrative

Spare Batteries:

Supplies Costs

\$18,172.00

This line item will provide 130 BWC batteries for use with active and backup BWCs. Based on quotes received, we expect this line item to fully fund the operational needs of functioning BWCs with detachable batteries for continuous charging when not in use with an associated camera.

Backup BWCs:

This line item will provide 5 backup BWCs in addition to the larger equipment/technology line item that features in-camera storage when in use. These five additional cameras will ensure that if any camera malfunctions or requires repairs, officers in the field will be able to quickly replace and activate a new device while repairs occur.

Does the budget for this project include other costs?

No

Cost Categories Total

\$249,807.00

Document Upload

Attachment A: Budget Excel Worksheet Form (Summary and Details sheets)

FY26 Attachment A-Body Worn Camera Budget Worksheet Somerville.xlsm

If available at time of application submission, please include with your application the following required materials (otherwise, the completed documentation must be submitted no later than 90 days after execution of award contract):

- Applicant law enforcement agencies must certify and provide evidence that the department has collective bargaining approval or has worked in good faith to reach union agreement for a BWC program within the department.
- Copy of applicant law enforcement agency's Body-Worn Camera Wear Policy.

Collective Bargaining Agreement

SPSOA MOA signed FY19-21.pdf

SPEA MOU 2015-2021.pdf

BWC Policy

SPEA Exhibit A Body Worn Camera Policy.pdf

Additional Materials

Senior Agency Official Signature

As the Senior Agency Official of

Somerville Police Department,

I am requesting funds for the Body Worn Camera Grant award from the Office of Grants and Research. I have reviewed and approve the content contained in this application being submitted for consideration of funding.

Name of Applicant

Somerville Police Department

Senior Agency Official Name

Richard Lavey

Job Title

Deputy Chief

Signature

Date

12/3/2025



The confirmation email will go to the grant contact at this email:

ewisdom@police.somerville.ma.us

If this is incorrect, please update the email address in the Grant Point of Contact section.

Submitting Your Application

Once you have completed all sections in this application, click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page. Once you submit the application, you will not be able to edit your responses.

After you click "Submit", you will be emailed a copy of your completed application in PDF form and uploaded documents for your records.

Thank you!