

The Complete Guide to Selecting and Buying a Body Camera for Law Enforcement

Body-worn cameras are becoming a higher priority for a lot of police departments around the country. In fact, many states are requiring law enforcement agencies to purchase body-worn cameras for their department, often offering grants to help offset the cost of outfitting an entire agency.

But with so many options available, it can be overwhelming trying to figure out which body-worn camera is the best for your department.

Here are some things to consider when selecting and buying a body-worn camera.

Why Consider Body Cameras?

If you live in a state that doesn't require body cameras for its police departments, what are the benefits?

Safety

The biggest reason to implement body cameras is to keep everyone safe — not just the officers but also the public. Just the mere presence of a body camera could deter someone from attacking an officer trying to do his or her job. Likewise, the presence of body cameras aims to put officers on their best behavior.

Police departments want to be transparent with the public and equipping their staff with body cameras means they are doing their part in showing the public that proper procedures are being followed.



Exonerate Officers

With body-worn cameras, officers can capture an incident and the footage can be reviewed, exonerating an officer from any wrongdoing following a false claim. Body-worn cameras also mean the onus isn't on the officer to remember every single detail. Incidents happen quickly, and it can be difficult for police officers to recall the events exactly as they happened while trying to de-escalate a situation.

Tell the Whole Story

Everyone wants to know the truth, and body-worn cameras show exactly what happened. If there are several officers involved in a single incident, that means there are multiple points of view involved, making it easier to figure out how an incident took place.

Accountability

Police departments want to hold their officers accountable. The presence of body cameras means there is no denying how an incident unfolded. And should an officer cross the line regarding upholding the law, then the accountability falls on the department in disciplining the officer appropriately.

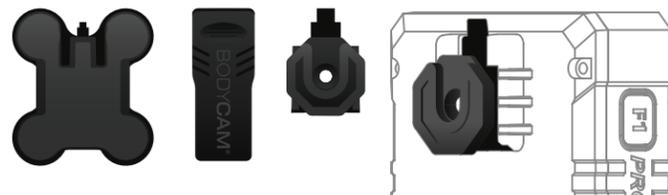
What are the Features of a Body Camera?

Body cameras come equipped with several features, and there are a lot of considerations to be made when purchasing body cameras for your police department.

Body Camera Point of View

It goes without saying, but where the body camera is located will determine the video that is captured. Place the camera too low on the chest, and you could be recording the ground and missing the action. Some cameras can be added to sunglasses or attached to the brim of a baseball cap, but those cameras can easily be removed during an altercation. It is recommended to place the camera on the outside of a breast pocket to offer the best view.

Pro-Vision offers several mounting options, including a magnet mount, garment clip, epaulette mount and more. The field of view also is an important factor in determining which camera to purchase. The bigger the field of view, the more activity that can be recorded. Most body-worn cameras provide anywhere from 95- to 170-degree field of view.



Enhanced Video Stability for Body Cameras

Because the body-worn camera is attached to a mobile person, the field of view is constantly moving. And if an officer is chasing a suspect or involved in an altercation, it can be hard to see what is happening.

Pro-Vision's Bodycam® 4 body-worn camera features electronic image stabilization technology, which substantially reduces erratic movement in your videos.





Body Camera Battery Life

Battery life can make or break a body-worn camera. Police officers will need a camera that can last throughout the entirety of their shift. Bodycam 4 body-worn cameras feature a 14-hour battery life, meaning there will be no low-battery interruptions throughout the day. As an added bonus, Pro-Vision's body camera docking stations not only charge the device but automatically upload video footage to be reviewed.

RFID Technology on Body Cameras

Bodycam 4 features RFID Login, which allows body cameras to be easily assigned to officers with a scan. Just pick a camera, scan and you're ready to begin. Plus, there's no need to designate a certain camera for each officer, as the RFID Login allows any officer to swap cameras from shift to shift.

Proximity Activation for Body Cameras

Proximity Activation allows body cameras to be automatically activated when within a 30-foot range of another body camera or police vehicle — even if that vehicle doesn't have an in-car video system — keeping the focus on the situation at hand.

Sometimes an altercation escalates quickly, and the last thing an officer needs to worry about in a life-or-death situation is whether their body camera is on.

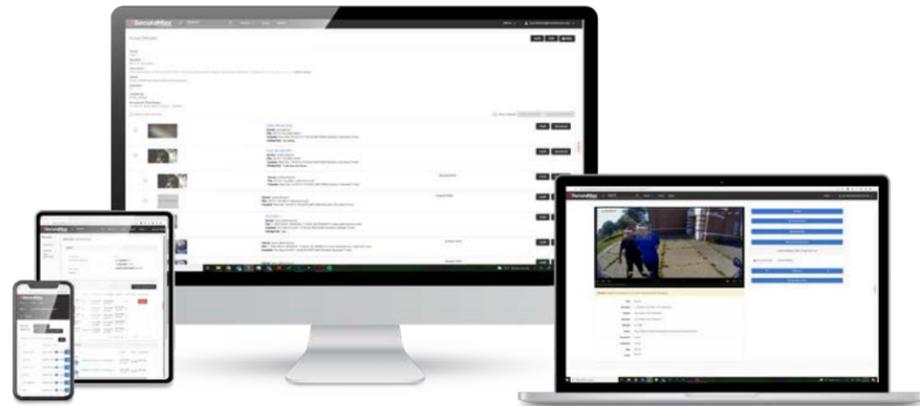
Body Camera Durability

Because of the environment a police officer works in, body cameras must be durable. Pro-Vision's Bodycam 4 cameras are IP68 waterproof rated and meet military specifications, meaning it's designed for rough environments.

Continuous Recording on Body Cameras

Bodycam 4 cameras offer continuous recording, which means every facet of an officer's shift can be captured — even without hitting record. The body cameras also feature pre-event recording, so you won't miss a crucial event.





“We are fully equipped with PRO-VISION® systems. their products give us the top-quality features we need but at a much more affordable price.”

- Lt. Benny Parker, Muleshoe Police Department, TX

“Kudos to Pro-Vision for making sure we are happy. ... This is by far the best experience I’ve had with a company.”

- Chief Dave Smith, Lorenzo Police Department, TX

Body Camera Data Management

Pro-Vision offers an optional evidence management program, SecuraMax, which is a CJIS-compliant solution that simplifies the data management process and saves time. SecuraMax allows you to request video, blur faces automatically and share footage with individuals either inside or outside your organization.

It’s also important to consider the license billing structure of the software solution. Are you paying per uploading device or by how many users have access? If there will be many nonuploading users who are reviewing videos, then it could get expensive quickly.

State Mandates Becoming More Common

As mentioned earlier, many states are starting to mandate body cameras for all law enforcement agencies. Generally, the mandates will come with an opportunity to apply for grants to help offset some of the costs associated with implementing these mobile video solutions. No matter the size of your police force, Pro-Vision has the scalable and versatile hardware solution to fit your needs.

About Pro-Vision

Founded in 2003, Pro-Vision is a leading video technology solutions provider trusted by thousands of organizations in 58 countries. Pro-Vision solutions include vehicle video recording systems, body-worn cameras, data management and cloud-based storage solutions. Pro-Vision’s transit, law enforcement and commercial partners utilize these solutions to enhance safety, increase productivity and protect critical assets.



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