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SHERIFF MARK LANDERS

February 2, 2025

Mrs. Jennifer Woolridge  
Manager of Operations and Special Projects  
Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board  
4500 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street Road  
Springfield, IL 62703

Subject: Logan County Sheriff's Office 2024 In-Car & Body-Worn Camera Report

Dear Mrs. Woolridge,

In July 2019 and August 2020, the Logan County Sheriff's Office received grant funding to purchase nine in-car camera systems. Every deputy assigned to the Patrol Division is now equipped with a WatchGuard in-car camera. Additionally, in May 2024, the Sheriff's Office implemented a Body-Worn Camera (BWC) program to enhance transparency, accountability, and officer safety.

As part of this initiative, the department procured 24 Motorola V500 Body-Worn Cameras, ensuring that each sworn employee was assigned their own device. To support this deployment, the department implemented a policy titled "**Portable Audio/Video Recorders,**" which provides clear guidelines on the proper use of BWCs and incorporates state laws governing the review, retention, and release of recordings.

Since March 2024, all footage from both in-car and body-worn cameras has been stored in a cloud-based system maintained by IT personnel. Before this transition, in-car camera recordings were stored on a dedicated server. Retention periods have been established based on event classifications (e.g., traffic stops, felonies, misdemeanors, etc.).

So far, our recording software has required minimal maintenance. Since the BWC program is still in its early stages, we have encountered only a few technical issues. However, some minor inconveniences have arisen, including:

- **Equipment Maintenance:** Occasional malfunctions have required the replacement of cables and hardware for in-car cameras to ensure continued functionality.
- **Upload Failures:** Body-worn cameras have, at times, failed to upload footage to the cloud-based storage system, requiring troubleshooting and manual intervention.

Despite these challenges, our department has been able to resolve issues efficiently, often with the assistance of Motorola's technical support. We continue to monitor system performance and implement necessary adjustments to maintain seamless operations.

Our department policy establishes a structured supervisory review process to ensure accountability, officer safety, and continuous training. Investigations personnel or Sergeants are responsible for conducting these reviews under specific circumstances, including:

- **Supervisory Oversight & Training:** Reviews are conducted as needed to evaluate officer performance, ensure compliance with department policies, and provide coaching or corrective action when necessary. These reviews also help enhance officer safety by identifying potential risks or areas for improvement.
- **Report Preparation:** When deputies prepare reports, they are required to review relevant video footage and document in their narrative that the footage was reviewed. This ensures accuracy in reporting and provides a comprehensive record of incidents.
- **Significant Events:** Following any major incident, such as use-of-force encounters, pursuits, or high-risk arrests, supervisors review video footage to assess the actions taken, verify adherence to policies, and determine if any additional training or corrective measures are needed.
- **Training & Development:** Recorded footage is occasionally utilized in training sessions to provide real-world examples of proper procedures, effective communication, and tactical decision-making. This helps deputies learn from past incidents and reinforces best practices within the department.

By implementing this structured review process, the department maintains transparency, strengthens accountability, and continuously improves the effectiveness of its officers in the field.

If any additional information is needed for our annual reporting, please feel free to contact our office at 217-732-4159.

Thank you,

  
Sheriff Mark Landers