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SHERIFF MARK LANDERS

January 22, 2026

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

Subject: Logan County Sheriff's Office 2025 In-Car & Body-Worn Camera Report

Dear Mrs. Woolridge,

In July 2019 and August 2020, the Logan County Sheriff's Office secured grant funding to acquire nine in-car camera systems. As a result, every deputy in the Patrol Division is now outfitted with a WatchGuard in-car camera.

In May 2024, the Logan County Sheriff's Office launched its Body-Worn Camera (BWC) program to promote greater transparency, accountability, and officer safety. In June 2025, the department secured additional grant funding, which provided reimbursement for the acquisition of the 24 Body-Worn Cameras.

The Sheriff's Office selected 24 Motorola V500 Body-Worn Cameras, assigning one device to each sworn employee. To support the rollout, a comprehensive policy called "Portable Audio/Video Recorders" was adopted. This policy outlines clear procedures for BWC usage and complies with applicable state laws regarding recording review, retention, and public release.

Since March 2024, all video footage from both in-car and body-worn cameras has been securely stored in a cloud-based system managed by IT staff. Prior to this change, in-car recordings were kept on a dedicated local server. Retention schedules are in place and vary depending on the nature of the incident (such as traffic stops, misdemeanors, felonies, and other classifications).

Since the 2024 rollout, the recording software has required very little ongoing maintenance. This past year, only a handful of technical problems have occurred. The main issues noted include:

- **Equipment Maintenance:** Some in-car camera components, such as cables and hardware, have occasionally malfunctioned and needed replacement to keep systems operational.
- **Video Classification Issues:** On occasion, videos were misclassified, impacting the correct retention periods. This issue was addressed through additional training and enhanced supervisory oversight.
- **Upload Failures:** There have been occasional instances where body-worn camera footage did not automatically upload to the cloud storage, necessitating troubleshooting and manual uploads.

These challenges have been addressed promptly with valuable support from Motorola's technical team. The department actively monitors system performance and makes adjustments as needed to ensure reliable operation.

Department policy includes a formal supervisory review process designed to promote accountability, enhance officer safety, and support ongoing training. Sergeants or investigations personnel handle reviews in the following key situations:

- **Supervisory Oversight and Training:** Footage is reviewed as required to assess officer performance, verify policy compliance, deliver coaching or corrective action, and identify ways to improve safety and reduce risks.
- **Report Preparation:** Deputies must review their videos when drafting reports and explicitly note in their narrative that the footage was examined. This practice promotes accurate documentation and provides a complete account of events.
- **Significant Events:** After significant incidents—such as use-of-force events, vehicle pursuits, high-risk arrests, or citizen complaints—supervisors review the video to assess actions taken, ensure compliance with policy, and determine whether additional training or corrective action is needed.
- **Training and Development:** Select footage is used in training sessions to illustrate real-world examples of effective tactics, communication, and decision-making, helping officers learn from actual experiences and reinforce department best practices.

Through this comprehensive review and compliance process, the department maintains transparency, reinforces accountability, and supports the continuous improvement of officer performance in the field.

One notable trend identified this year is the dramatic increase in FOIA requests associated with the implementation of the body-worn camera (BWC) program. As a result, video footage must be carefully reviewed as part of the FOIA response and redaction process to ensure full compliance with all applicable legal and statutory requirements. The obligation to redact videos for public release remains highly time-consuming and costly, particularly given the growing volume and complexity of requests.

The department relies on Motorola's redaction software and the Motorola Evidence Library; however, despite these technological tools, the process still requires extensive manual review and technical effort to accurately identify and remove exempt or protected information. Additionally, staff devote considerable time to interpreting and applying FOIA provisions, along with body-worn camera video statutes, which often involve case-specific legal considerations. This occasionally requires consultation with the State's Attorney to ensure each response is legally accurate.

Please feel free to contact my office with any questions at (217)732-4159.

Thank you,



Mark Landers
Logan County Sheriff