

Proposed Taser update for the Washington County Sheriff's Office



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Washington County Sheriff's Office
Fayetteville, Arkansas

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Executive Summary

In order to more effectively serve the citizens of Washington County, while maximizing officer safety/community safety and promoting transparency, it is proposed that we update our current Tasers®. It is our duty to protect our citizens while protecting our deputies. Without effective Tasers® as a use of force option, we will likely see more injuries to subjects who resist arrest and to deputies who have to arrest them. This increase in injuries will stem from having to use alternative uses of force, such as hand-to-hand physical combat, impact weapons and perhaps even deadly force.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to show the need for new Tasers® for the deputies of the Washington County Sheriff's Office. Our current Tasers® are the X26 model and have been out of production since 2014. They are no longer supported and parts/accessories for them are no longer produced. This means that as they become unserviceable we cannot have them repaired. As for batteries and cartridges, we are only able to buy the ones that are still in inventory, which is a finite amount. These items also have a recommended effective use by date. The batteries deteriorate with age and the CO2 cartridges have a degradation with time, as well.

Request for funding for the purchase of updated Tasers®

Our current Tasers® are extinct. As mentioned in the Purpose section of this proposal, they have not been produced since 2014, and now are not supported any longer. The majority of our Tasers® were acquired and put into service from 2007-2009. We still have to purchase batteries and cartridges for these devices, however, these accessories are no longer being produced. This means we can only buy those items, which are leftover stock and are nearing or have passed their recommended use date. Currently we are paying \$36.05 for each cartridge and \$57.48 for each battery. The lifespan of the batteries have been approximately 1 year. This means we are spending up to \$2500 each year for obsolescence in batteries alone, as the batteries are not rechargeable. The current Taser® 7 (T7) is available on a 5 year or 10 year program. During the 5 year and 10 year programs, any batteries or other T7 related devices that fail are replaced at no cost. Further, two cartridges per officer are provided to start the program and then any deployed cartridges are replaced as part of the program. There are 20 cartridges provided, per officer, over the 5-year program to be fired in training. Beyond that, there are eight hook and loop training cartridges and a hook and loop suit included for scenario based training. The 10-year program effectively doubles the number of training cartridges to account for 10 years and

provides a refresh/upgrade to the newest version during the contract. Currently, we buy each X26 cartridge on a per cartridge basis.

Our Tasers® are beyond their life expectancy and as they fail, we can only replace them with the few extras we have in our inventory. These are not new units. They are previously issued devices that have been turned in for various reasons.

As you can imagine, technology surrounding the Taser® has grown dramatically since 2007. The current device, the T7 is much more advanced and has a higher effective rate than the X26 we currently issue. Nationally, the X26 has an average effectiveness of 70%. The T7 is over 90%. What this means is greater successful deployments, which in turn, decrease the likelihood that other uses of force will be needed. This increase in effectiveness is due, in part, to redesigned probes and a new cyclic rate. Higher effectiveness means we do not have to move on to hands on fighting or the use of batons, pepper spray, canine or, in some circumstances, the use of deadly force. This means fewer injuries to our officers and to the persons we use force against. This helps us better meet our objective to protect life.

Think of the advancements in other technology to compare to the Taser®. Let's look at our mobile phones, for instance. The original iPhone (1st generation) was released in the U.S. on June 29, 2007. The same year many of our Tasers® were put into service. Today's iPhones are far more advanced than the 1st gen model in reliability, functionality, features, etc. Just like the X26, most older phones are no longer supported because technology has advanced.

To further expand on the advancements of technology found in the T7, the T7 is considered a "smart" device. Our X26s have a cartridge that has a serial number and many tiny pieces of paper, called AFIDs, inside the cartridge that are expelled upon deployment. The purpose of the AFIDs was to leave an evidentiary marker at the scene to indicate which Taser® was fired, since the cartridges could be put on any device. This helped with accountability. The T7 has a rechargeable, smart battery, which reads the device's serial number and the serial numbers of the cartridges. This allows the device's information, including firing data, to be uploaded to the issued officer's evidence account automatically, through a docking station and provides tracking of use. The reporting capabilities of the T7 are far superior and capture more data than the X26, which gives more accountability. The firing data for the X26 is uploaded from the unit to a PC, manually through a cord. The data for the X26 is limited and often not of use due to corruptions of data that are caused by the age of electronic components. The T7 is also a two shot device, while the X26 is a single shot.

The X26 does not have an easy way to provide a warning arc, which acts to deter escalation by displaying a visible and audible arc across the front of the device. In order to provide a warning arc with the X26, the user must first remove the cartridge with one hand, pull the trigger with the device in the other hand to display an arc, then power off or wait until the 5 second cycle ends, then replace the cartridge to prepare for deployment, if needed. Pulling the trigger with the cartridge in place fires the cartridge. The T7 has a large button on each side that, when pressed, creates a warning arc, while keeping the cartridges in place, ready to be deployed if needed. There are several other features that make the T7 far superior and more useful and effective than the X26.

Below is a summary of cost for the program and is broken down over a 5-year period. This is not a lease. This is a purchase in which the costs are broken down to be a yearly operational expense, rather than a larger, capital expense every 5 years.

Pricing Summary	TASER 7 Certification NO VR
TASER 7 Certification Plan + Add-On NO VR	\$403,400.00
Trade-In Credit Incentive	TBD
Grand Total Cost After Trade-In	TBD

Payment Schedule
2021 - \$80,680
2022 - \$80,680
2023 - \$80,680
2024 - \$80,680
2025 - \$80,680

Attached along with this is a breakdown of expenses/services.

1000 General Fund DEPT: 0400 Sheriff - \$260,677.60

3017 Jail Operations & Maintenance DEPT: 0418 County Jail - \$142,722.40

In this day and age, the public demands transparency and accountability from their government and their officers. We desire the same, as well as officer safety, protection of life and reduction in injuries to our citizens and to our deputies. This program helps in the achievement of those goals.

WASHINGTON COUNTY AR SO - TASER 7 CERTIFICATION PLAN + ADD-ON NO VR

# of T7 Certification Users	107	2021 Trade-in Credit for TASER 7	TBD
# of T7 Certification Add-On Users	30		

2021 TASER 7 Certification Plan Pricing NO VR

*Pricing represented is for budgetary purposes only and is not binding

Contract Term			TASER 7 Certification Plan	TASER 7 Certification Add-On NO VR
Product			60 Months	60 Months
Unit Cost	Quantity			
			\$57.50 per officer per month	\$17.50 per officer per month
TASER 7 Handle	\$1,720.00	107	Included	-
Holster	\$80.00	107	Included	-
TASER 7 Rechargeable Battery	\$86.00	128	Included	-
TASER 7 Six Bay Dock	\$1,500.00	1	Included	-
TASER 7 Spare Weapons and Batteries	\$1,806.00	3	Included	-
TASER 7 Extended Warranty	\$300.00	107	Included	-
TASER 7 Battery Extended Warranty	\$18.00	128	Included	-
Six Bay Dock Extended Warranty	\$300.00	1	Included	-
Evidence.com License	\$5.00	107	Included	-
Cartridges (Both Angles)	-	-	Included	Included
Inert Training Cartridges	\$49.00	100	Included	Included
2021 Live Cartridges - Duty	\$38.00	822	Included Upfront, then Unlimited	Included Upfront, then Unlimited
2021 Live Cartridges - Training	\$38.00	548	Included	Included
2021 HALT Cartridges - Training	\$38.00	548	Included	Included
2022 Live Cartridges - Training	\$39.90	548	Included	Included
2023 Live Cartridges - Training	\$41.90	548	Included	Included
2023 HALT Cartridges - Training	\$41.90	548	Included	Included
2024 Live Cartridges - Training	\$43.99	548	Included	Included
2025 Live Cartridges - Training	\$46.19	548	Included	Included
HALT Training Suit	\$750.00	3	Included	Included
TASER 7 Ruggedized Training Target	\$150.00	3	Included	Included
Target Frames	\$0.00	3	Included	Included
Axon Academy Online End User Training	\$0.00	137	Included	Included
TASER Instructor Voucher	\$375.00	5	Included	Included
Master Instructor Voucher	\$1,495.00	5	Included	Included
Professional Service Implementation: CEW Starter Plan	\$2,750.00	1	\$2,750.00	-
Total Investment			\$371,900	\$31,500

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