

Item Title: Approval of a Multi-Year Contract for Wake County Sheriff's Office for Electronic Controlled Weapons

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to execute a 5-year contract totaling \$1,344,000 with Axon Enterprise, Inc for Electronic Controlled Weapons.

Item Summary:

Purpose: In accordance with the North Carolina State Statute, the Board of Commissioners shall approve all County multi-year contracts.

Background: As Wake County continues to grow and diversify, deputies are increasingly responding to complex calls for service that require tools and training focused on reducing risk, promoting de-escalation, protecting lives, and building trust within the community.

In 2024, the Wake County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) initiated the process of re-instating electronic controlled weapons (EWCs) to allow more modern tools and training aimed at enhancing safety for both deputies and residents of Wake County.

After completing product demonstrations with Axon Enterprise, Inc (Axon), it was determined that Axon is fully equipped and qualified to customize products and training to meet the specific needs of the WCSO. Under this agreement, Axon will provide a bundle package to outfit 200 authorized staff members with EWCs. This package will include hardware, software, accessories, licensing, warranties and virtual training.

Studies and findings have shown that providing proper training on (ECWs) promotes effective de-escalation, reduces overall use-of-force incidents, and supports officer safety. Additionally, such training strengthens accountability and transparency, building trust with the citizens of Wake County.

Strategic Plan: This action supports Safer Community Together Goal 3: By 2029, reduce the Wake County violent crime rate per 100,000 people by 5%.

Fiscal Impact: \$298,000 is appropriated in the FY2026 CIP for the first-year costs. Future Costs will not exceed \$1,056,000 and are planned for the FY2027-FY2031 CIP.

Attachments:

1. Contract & Exhibits