

# GP NOW



*Where the Rogue River Runs*



## Public Safety Body Worn Cameras

Technology in law enforcement has been moving at a tremendous pace. We have computers in patrol cars, wireless technology for transferring photos and files, cell phones and forensic analysis of data. But no area has erupted more than the area of Police Body Worn Camera (BWC) systems. Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Police Operations has been using this technology for several years and has made a commitment to ensure all patrol officers are equipped with this valuable tool.

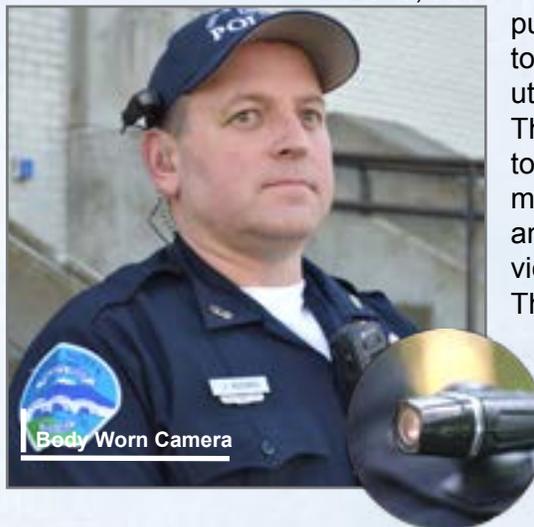
GPDPS started an evaluation of BWCs in September of 2012 after an officer attended a taser instructor conference where the new technology was revealed. Grants Pass was the first agency in the State of Oregon to deploy these cameras on a limited release. Two AXON Flex camera systems were purchased from Taser International and deployed in the field.

The BWC system consists of a "DVR" (the camera) and the battery pack. Officers wear the DVR on a headband or attach to a ball cap via a magnetic mount. The system is set up to

allow the officer to view the video on a cell phone via an app.

The results of the evaluation were mixed by officers and the public initially. There were comments from the public such as, "Are you Robocop?" Eventually, it became accepted and more officers were asking for the camera systems.

In 2013, additional camera systems were purchased and issued to the traffic officers who utilize police motorcycles. This allowed the officers to have a camera system mounted on the helmet and gave a true view of violations committed.



The BWC systems were deployed in addition to in-car camera systems installed in all marked patrol vehicles. The BWC allows for video when interacting

with citizens and events associated with policing activities.

GPDPS made a commitment in 2014 to purchase enough BWC systems for all uniformed patrol officers. Currently, every uniformed patrol officer and reserve officer is equipped with

a BWC system. Several studies have been conducted by police agencies showing decreases in claims of excessive force by officers, reduced use of force incidents, and increases in public confidence.

*"Body worn cameras will show that the department is engaged in constitutional policing."*

*Continued on page 4*



Councilor Shonna Bouteller  
Ward 4

- First car: 1969 Datsun Pick-up
- Most memorable day: My 40th birthday. All of my friends and family camped together at South Umpqua Falls.
- Favorite word: Family
- Life's Passion: I am passionate about working with children and the homeless.

I enjoy helping kids learn to read and helping homeless people willing to make necessary changes on their own.

- First concert: Richard Marx

Shonna Bouteller was born and raised in Grants Pass and graduated from Grants Pass High School in 1992. Currently, she is a self-employed real estate broker. Formerly she was the administrator of the Gospel Rescue Mission.

Bouteller says that Grants Pass is a wonderful place to call home. "I was raised to take civic responsibility very seriously and I come from a long line of actively involved family members. I feel the City Council is the highest level of service as it is a completely volunteer position. The Southwest Ward has grown and will continue to grow. I am a team player and am able to

empathize with the concerns of others. As a parent, the future of Grants Pass is important to me and my children as well. I hope to help improve it for future generations."

Her community concerns involve local government securing new funding avenues for law enforcement. She believes the future Sobering Center will help change the landscape of the homelessness issue.

Bouteller loves hiking, fishing, camping, softball, golf and Kung Fu. "I love spending time with my awesome family." She also volunteers, through her church, in an annual Summer Outreach dedicated to enhancing neighborhood families and their communities and volunteers in the third grade class at New Hope Christian School.



Councilor Valerie Lovelace  
Ward 2

- First Car: 1962 Red Volkswagen Bug
- Most memorable day: I love spending holidays with my family, but my most memorable day was my 28th birthday which I spent floating down the Rogue in a small raft on a glorious day.
- Favorite word: Lollygagging
- Life's Passion: I loved teaching, when

I was free to do it my way, and could see the light bulb turn on. I love connecting with people in general and the beauty of the great outdoors.

- First concert: My first concert was Steely Dan back in the day.

Valerie Lovelace has clear priorities as a new City Councilor: working with the County to find stable funding for Public Safety and the sale and regulation of marijuana. "The voters in Oregon have spoken, now we must find a means to make it all work," says Lovelace.

Lovelace graduated from SOU with a BS degree in Elementary Education in 1985. She started her teaching career at Rogue River Middle School, then taught the 3rd and 5th grades at Lincoln Elementary. She retired after 23 years in teaching.

"My desire to serve on the Grants Pass City Council is a result of a deep-seated belief in giving back to the community I live

in," states Lovelace. "I have lived here over 30 years and have always been actively involved in getting things done and making a difference in the lives of others. I have continued to be involved with the Securing Our Safety committee and trying to find solutions to the local funding crisis for our justice system. My goal as a City Council member is to utilize these skills for the betterment of our community. I see the divide between city and county residents as a current problem. Trust and respect need to be reestablished by focusing on common needs and acknowledging differing strengths. Finding solutions entails looking outside the box and searching for common ground. I believe the best solutions will be found at the local level."

## Patrol Car Evolution

Citizens of Grants Pass have likely noticed the addition of several Chevrolet Tahoe SUVs to the police fleet. Quite a bit of research, testing, and evaluation went into the decision to migrate towards the Tahoe platform for police use. Grants Pass Police have traditionally driven four-door sedans for police service. Over the years, the size of sedans sold in the civilian market has gradually gotten smaller. The reduction in interior space, along with the increasing amounts of electrical and tactical equipment going into police

cars, added to the need to explore alternative vehicle options.



Chevy Tahoe

In 2014, two of our 2005 Ford Crown Victoria K-9 vehicles were due to be replaced. The department felt this was the perfect opportunity to test and evaluate how Chevrolet Tahoe's met the needs of the department. The City conducted extensive research prior to purchasing the Tahoe's. Products from Dodge, Ford and Chevrolet were considered. One unique need of our K-9 vehicles is to be able to transport the K-9 itself, while having room for prisoner transport. Prisoner transport by the K-9 unit was not a possibility prior to the Tahoe, even with the Ford Crown Victoria. Because the Tahoe

offers a larger interior, a K-9 cage and a prisoner transport option was put into the SUVs.

In addition to the interior size advantage, the Tahoe also offers a higher ride height. The ride height was a factor considered after a review of officer knee injuries related to the repeated entry and exit of lower-riding patrol car platforms. This consideration came at the request of the City of Grants Pass Safety Committee. The committee referenced an ergonomic study conducted by the FBI, which revealed significant injury avoidance with the SUV option.

The City has purchased five Chevrolet Tahoes to replace the Dodge Chargers that have reached the end of their police service life. An additional positive, related to using the Tahoe, is the extended lifespan. The Tahoe is built on a truck frame with more heavy-duty components. To date, the Tahoes have been an improvement in reliability with significantly less downtime due to maintenance. In our research we have found that agencies using the Tahoe typically gets an extra 50,000 miles of service life. Extending the lifespan of the Tahoe offsets the slightly higher cost of their initial purchase.



Dodge Charger

"No modifications can be made to the original copy of the video to ensure integrity of the evidence." Uploading has been made extremely easy through the use of Electronic Transfer Modules (ETM).

At the end of their shift, officers place the battery and the DVR into the ETM and the files are automatically uploaded and assigned to the officer. The DVR is cleared and ready to use for the next shift.

GPDPS has been very pleased with the BWCs and has no plans on moving away from this proven technology.

#### Committee Openings

Applications are being accepted for two positions on the Tourism Advisory Committee. The purpose of this committee is to review the strategy for the implementation of the tourism program and to report its findings and recommendations to the City Council. If you would like to apply, visit our website at [www.grantspassoregon.gov](http://www.grantspassoregon.gov). Click on "How Do I" then select "Apply For" then "Committee or Board Position."

#### Interesting facts about the Body Worn Camera

- The combined weight of both the camera and controller is less than four ounces and will fit in the palm of your hand.
- Camera has a 75° field of view.
- Able to shoot 30 frames per second and can record up to 13 hours.
- Can record at night.
- Low-light camera comparable to the human eye.



#### Benefits to the Body Worn Camera

- Increased transparency and accountability of officers.
- Captured footage can help speed up court proceedings by providing indisputable proof of situations.
- May help de-escalate confrontational situations between officers and civilians.
- Provides video evidence of decisions made by officers in high-intensity situations.

Mayor Darin Fowler 541-660-3696 [dfowler33@hotmail.com](mailto:dfowler33@hotmail.com)

#### Ward 1

Council President Dan DeYoung 541-660-0342

[mayorcouncil@grantspassoregon.gov](mailto:mayorcouncil@grantspassoregon.gov)

Councilor Roy Lindsay 541-291-0346

[rlindsay@grantspassoregon.gov](mailto:rlindsay@grantspassoregon.gov)

#### Ward 2

Councilor Valerie Lovelace 541-479-0952

[vlovelace@grantspassoregon.gov](mailto:vlovelace@grantspassoregon.gov)

Councilor Rick Riker 541-479-7333

[councilriker@charter.net](mailto:councilriker@charter.net)

#### Ward 3

Councilor Ken Hannum 541-659-4579

[kenhannum@live.com](mailto:kenhannum@live.com)

Councilor Dennis Roler 541-479-4272

[droler@grantspassoregon.gov](mailto:droler@grantspassoregon.gov)

#### Ward 4

Councilor Shonna Bouteller 541-450-5712

[sbouteller@grantspassoregon.gov](mailto:sbouteller@grantspassoregon.gov)

Councilor Jim Goodwin 541-761-5733

[jamesagoodwin@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesagoodwin@hotmail.com)

#### City Council Meetings

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6pm

City Council Workshops

Each Monday at 11:45 am

City Council Chambers, 101 NW A Street

Meetings are televised on Charter Cable

Channel 183 and posted online at

[www.grantspassoregon.gov](http://www.grantspassoregon.gov).

Listen live to Councilors and Staff discussing

local issues on KAJO (1270 AM) the 1st and

2nd Tuesdays each month at 9:30 am



City of Grants Pass  
Local Government