



**County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors
Agenda Item Submittal**

From: District Attorney

Subject: District Attorney's Agreement for Axon Justice Services Premier

Meeting Date: May 6, 2025

Formal Title: Approve five-year agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc., in the total amount of \$637,578 for electronic evidence collection, storage, and processing, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Approve agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc., in the total amount of \$637,578 for the purchase of the Axon Justice Premier platform for the term of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2030;
2. Authorize the District Attorney or designee to execute the agreement; and
3. Authorize the District Attorney and Auditor-Controller to pay invoices for annual renewal costs up to \$137,709 per year during the term of the agreement.

Executive Summary

The District Attorney's Office (DAO) is requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc., for their Axon Justice Premier platform. The purpose is to provide improved investigative and prosecutorial effectiveness and workflow efficiency related to the collection, storage and processing of electronic evidence from various law enforcement agencies, as well as distributing statutorily required discovery to defense counsel.

Discussion

The DAO's current platform, Axon's Evidence.com, provides very basic abilities related to the collection, storage and processing of electronic evidence (video, images, and some files) from various law enforcement agencies (LEAs), as well as distributing statutorily required discovery to defense counsel. This contract is an upgraded version of its existing platform. It is the only product that offers the desired enhancements, and the vendor is already an established partner with the County.

Upgrading to the Axon Justice Premier platform will provide the following enhanced features:

1. Unlimited online storage and retention of electronic evidence.
2. Full integration with all other local LEAs Axon platforms and native file formats.
3. Enhanced direct integration with our case management system **Prosecutor by Karpel**.
4. Rapid, automatic, on-demand and accurate transcription of a large volume of video and audio files due to AI features.
5. Audio and video editing/redaction.
6. Improved investigative/prosecutorial effectiveness and workflow efficiency.

With the ever-increasing amount of electronic evidence obtained as a part of our office's investigative and prosecutorial duties and per various evidentiary requirements, these enhanced features are “game-changers”.

Financial Impact

The necessary first-year funding for this purchase is included in the department's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26. Currently, the department spends an average of around \$60,000 annually on third-party transcription services. The new contract provides for transcription as well as additional critical services with regards to electronic evidence. These necessary expenditures will be recognized in GL Key 272100, Object 62219. Funding in the subsequent years of the agreement will continue to be subject to Board approval in those years.

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety - The recommended actions serve to support the operations of the District Attorney's Offices, thereby furthering the goal of increasing public safety and serving justice by enabling the office to accomplish its missions and operational objectives.

Submitted By:

Jeffrey S. Rosell, District Attorney

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.