



Community Safety and Justice

Nicole Gorle

Council Initiated:

☐ Yes

☒ No

ECAF: 2026-1485

Ordinance: 26-027

Type:

☐ Contract

☐ Board Appt.

☒ Code Amendment

☐ Budget Action

☐ Other

Requested Handling:

☒ Normal

☐ Expedite

☐ Urgent

Fund Source:

☐ General Fund

☐ Other

☒ N/A

Executive Rec:

☒ Approve

☐ Do Not Approve

☐ N/A

Approved as to

Form:

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ N/A

Subject: Body Cameras – Charging for copying public records

Scope: Ordinance 26-027 would amend county code, [SCC 2.51.100](#), to allow the county to charge reasonable costs for preparing body camera recordings for public disclosure as allowed under [RCW 42.56.240\(f\)](#). This includes doing any of the following actions to parts of the video:

- Redacting;
- Altering;
- Distorting;
- Pixelating;
- Suppressing; or
- Obscuring.

Section 2 of the ordinances requires the sheriff determine and post the reasonable costs of redacting, altering, distorting, pixelating, suppressing, or otherwise obscuring any portion of the body worn camera recordings on the County's web site.

Duration: n/a

Fiscal Impact: ☐ Current Year ☐ Multi-Year ☐ N/A

Revenue	Current Year	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total
	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total's	***	***	***	***	***	***

While this would bring in additional money, this is to re-coup some of the cost incurred preparing body work camera footage for release to the public and is not to be a revenue generator. The actual amount of money brought in under this depends on the number of requests received for body camera footage and the level of redaction/editing needed to make them ready for release to the public.

The Sheriff's Office has calculated the initial rate based off a Public Information Records Specialist/Step 1, salary and benefits. Based on that, the rate will be \$0.53/minute.

Authority Granted: n/a

Background: In general, public records are to be made available to the public without charge. There are a few exceptions under RCW 42.56.120 and RCW 42.56.240(f). As it pertains to this ordinance, [RCW 42.56.240\(f\)](#) allows agencies to charge reasonable fees to cover the cost of preparing body worn camera footage for release to the public.

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Agencies that charge a fee must use redaction technology that provides the most cost efficient method of redacting, when possible and reasonable.

As provided in RCW 42.56.240(e), this fee shall not be assessed on:

- A person directly involved in an incident on the footage;
- Attorneys representing a person involved in the incident on the footage;
- A person or attorney requesting the footage relevant to a criminal case involving that person;
- The Executive directors from:
 - o Washington State Commission on African American Affairs;
 - o Asian Pacific American Affairs;
 - o Hispanic Affairs;
- Attorney representing a person in a civil case for the denial of civil rights.

Requested Action: Move to GLS to set time and date for a public hearing.