



Town of Hooksett

WARRANT ARTICLE REQUEST FORM

Revised 1/31/2024

Date of Request: 7/13/23

Date of Town Meeting: March 2024

Name of Department Submitting Request: Police Department

1. Please provide the wording of the proposed article.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$175,645.00** to purchase Body-Worn Cameras with accessories for the Police Department. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.06. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 0 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

2. Voters' Guide Explanation.

This will allow the town to purchase the equipment needed and enter into a five-year contract. The equipment will be replaced halfway through the contract.

The addition of these cameras will bring another level of transparency to the public, improving the level of service to the community. Instead of reading a report to see what happened, the event will be able to be viewed and listened to for better clarity when fielding complaints or providing more accurate information to the courts or even if it is requested by a member of the public as a right to know request.

Nationwide studies have reported that police departments are seeing that the presence of body-worn cameras often improves officer performance as well as the conduct of the community members who are recorded.

The Capital Improvement Plan Committee voted to support this request and recommended funding a warrant article in FY 2024-25 for this project.

3. If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs?

The Department would continue to function. However, the town will continue to follow the existing process for Right to Know requests which does not include access to video and audio recordings. Right to Know requests will be limited to written police reports only based on police interviews, research and signed statements by citizens.

4. Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?

No further information.