

2020 Special Session Appropriations Act

BODY WORN CAMERA GRANTS



DCJS

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Local Requirements

- During the 2020 General Assembly regular session, *Virginia Code* Section 15.2-1723.1 was enacted, defining a body-worn camera system as “an electronic system for creating, generating, sending, receiving, storing, and processing audiovisual recordings, including cameras or other devices capable of creating such recording, that may be worn about the person.”
- Prior to deploying a body-worn camera system, agencies must have a written policy in place, using the DCJS model policy as guidance. Such policy must be available for public comment and review, prior to adoption.

Model Policy

- In 2015, DCJS published a model policy for the use of Body Worn Cameras.
- The policy covers general use of cameras, basic equipment guidelines, officer and supervisor responsibility, privacy concerns, access to footage, and retention.
- The policy was developed with input from state and local law enforcement, as well as other interest groups and stakeholders.
- Can be found on the DCJS [website](#).

2020 Special Session Appropriation

The General Assembly appropriated \$6,404,200 for DCJS to make one-time grants to law-enforcement agencies to support the use of body worn camera systems.

Eligible Recipients

“Law-enforcement agencies located within the Commonwealth employing law-enforcement officers with primary law-enforcement duties”

State
Agencies

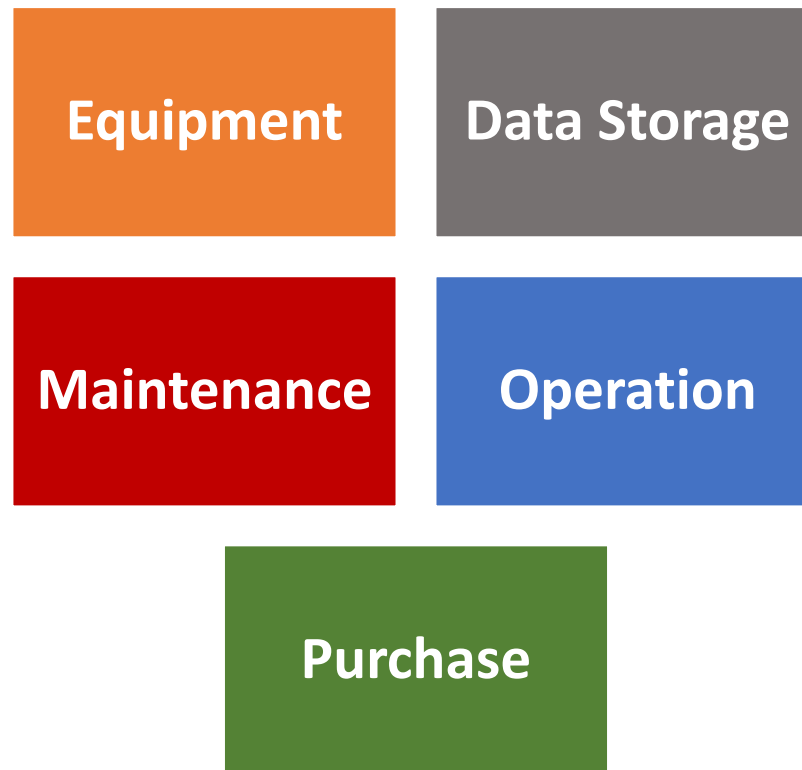
Local
Agencies

Colleges

Universities

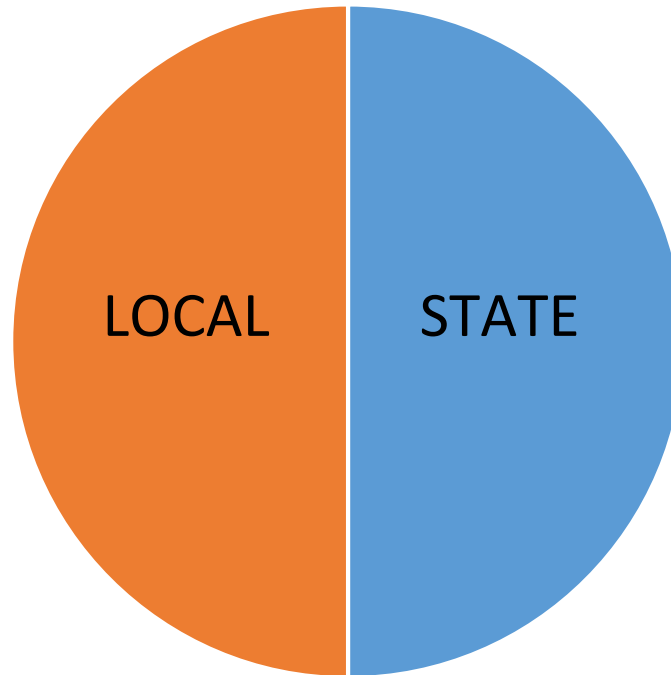
Qualifying Expenditures

One time costs associated with



Requirements

Any grant will require a
50 percent match from the locality



Expected Timeline



Reporting

- DCJS will report to the Chairs of House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations
 - Distributions made
 - Description and amount of equipment purchased
 - Any remaining balances

Grant Related Questions

- Erik Smith, Manager, Law Enforcement Standards and Policy
 - (804) 225-3899
 - erik.smith@dcjs.virginia.gov
- Tracy Matthews, Law Enforcement Grants Supervisor
 - (804) 371-0635
 - tracy.matthews@dcjs.virginia.gov