A close-up photograph of a black body-worn camera. The camera has a lens at the top and a circular microphone grille below it. Four red status lights are visible around the microphone grille. The background is a mix of orange and teal geometric shapes.

STPS Body Worn Camera

2024

2024

BWC Annual Report



The St. Thomas Police Service Body Worn Camera program closes out on another successful year utilizing Axon BWC and Digital Evidence Management.

Policy PR-81 requires annual reporting of the Body Worn Camera program which include the following;

INTERNAL AUDITS OF ADHERENCE TO BWC POLICY

Under the direction of a Senior Officer, a supervisor will be tasked with completing an annual audit of the BWC program specifically to ensure:

- The Policy is current and being adhered to by all members.
- The BWC video is securely stored and retention periods are being maintained with the video being deleted only as regulated.
- BWC audit trails are being generated to ensure there is no unauthorized access to the recordings.
- The supervisor tasked with the annual audit will be required to report their findings to the Senior Officer in narrative report form.

Review of Data 2024

EVIDENCE AGGREGATE TOTALS

BWC Videos	Capture Images	Capture Statements	Citizen Submissions
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25,669

8954

1728

4075

TOTAL ITEMS 40,426



Axon Capture



Axon View



Axon Insider



Axon Events

AXON CAPTURE IMAGES

8,954 images were take and uploaded by St Thomas Police during 2024. (11, 865 in 2023).

This is a feature that allows the responding officer to take scene photographs or video directly from their issued cell phone and upload immediately to Axon. This is used for more common, lower grade offences such as mischief, theft and motor vehicle collisions to name a few.

Less images taken by officers in 2024 correlates to the higher amount of submissions made by citizens through Axon Citizen.

AXON CAPTURE AUDIO

1,728 audio recordings were made in 2024 using the Axon capture feature (1,807 in 2023). This is an audio recording capability within the issued cellphone and Axon app. This allows officers to take statements at the scene and capture the best evidence. This is an efficient tool for the officers as it prevents the need for having people come to the police station for formal video interviews when it can be done at the scene.

AXON CITIZEN

4,075 citizen submissions were made to St. Thomas Police utilizing this feature (2,577in 2023). This is a mechanism that allows the officer to send a link via text message or email to the public. This is a link to a portal where the citizen is able to simply upload their photo or video evidence for the officer to review and maintain. This is an extremely modern and time saving tool. Within the 4,075 submissions, multiple images or videos were submitted during most submissions. The rise in submissions can be linked to citizens embracing this new technology.



COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE

AND THE USE OF BWC

LECA

Within 2024, 18 complaints were received through the Law Enforcement Complaints Agency (LECA).


- 11 complaints were screened out by LECA as not in the public interest.
- 5 complaints were referred back to the service for follow up.

The complaints that were referred back for investigation did have interactions captured on BWC. At the conclusion of the investigation, there was no substantiated wrong doing by the involved members.

SIU

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND THE USE OF BWC

In 2024 there were no incidents that required Special Investigation Unit (SIU) notification.



REDACTION REQUIREMENTS

Provincial Offences Act (POA) redactions – 432 hours of redacting time. The redactions are conducted by business office clerk members and supported by court Special Constables resulting in no additional budgetary expense.

Criminal/Federal Charges : Redaction completed by crown's office

Total hours on redaction : 0 hours

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Billed to Requester

QUARTERLY REPORTS

Quarterly platoon level audits were completed by front line supervisors.

The process for this audit is for the platoon NCO to pick a random shift throughout the quarter and analyze all calls for service compared to BWC recordings. The purpose of this is to ensure that the BWC is being activated in accordance with the policy and that all videos and associated evidence (audio statements and images) are being labelled with an incident number and categorized properly.

UNCATEGORIZED EVIDENCE

Uncategorized Evidence Reports are completed and logged monthly.

Officers and Supervisors are up to date with the categorization of evidence.

The categorization dictates the retention timelines of the video and is retained for disclosure with our local Crown Attorney's Office.



Axon Capture



Axon View



Axon Insider



Axon Events

CONCLUSION

The Body Worn Camera Program has been an asset since its inception with the St Thomas Police Service. All officers have not only embraced this program but assisted in making it as successful as it is.

While the BWC is certainly an asset, so are the Digital Evidence Management tools which include the Axon Capture and Axon Citizen. The Axon/BWC program implemented within St Thomas Police is a true success and has proven nothing but benefits to the community and the service.