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Hiawatha Police Getting New Body Cameras

(KNZA)--The Hiawatha Police Department is getting new body cameras.

On the recommendation of Police Chief John Defore, the City Commission this week approved the nearly \$8,700 purchase of six body cameras and DVR's.

Defore says the purchase also includes a docking station that both charges and downloads camera information simultaneously, as well as the Wi-Fi hardware to connect the department's in-car video cameras with the server.

He says the wireless component will mount on the back of the Law Enforcement Center so that when officers pull up the in-car cameras will automatically download into the officers file on the server.

The body cameras are being purchased from the same company that provided the in-car camera systems.

Defore says the price tag will be paid through STEP grant funds, an anonymous donation and VIN money.

The cameras will replace the existing units purchased about three years ago when Defore joined the department. He said they are beginning to fail and are entering the end of their life cycle.

Defore said the new state-of-the-art system will better protect officers.

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