

# What You Need to Know: Storing Body Camera Video

Video file storage is the most expensive aspect of a body camera program. Departments have reported cost estimates ranging from tens of thousands to millions of dollars per year for storage infrastructure and the employees to manage it.

The expected size, number and necessary retention of video files will help determine whether on-premise, cloud or hybrid storage is the best solution. State or local laws may also set requirements for retention periods and use of in-house and/or cloud storage.

## Questions to answer:

- Does the department already operate its own data center? Can it sustain continued high capital expenses over time?
- How much will it cost to ensure the network has enough bandwidth to upload, download and stream videos from the cloud?
- How quickly does the department want to have its body camera program up and running?
- How long do video retention policies specify evidentiary and non-evidentiary video be stored?
- What are the department's requirements for maintaining a backup copy of video files?

## CHECKLIST:

### In-House Storage

- ✓ Estimate how much additional storage capacity will be required for body camera video and how much capital investment will be needed.
- ✓ Determine whether additional IT staff will be needed to manage the video management system (VMS) and storage resources, as well as their integration with department systems and ongoing data center operations, maintenance and upgrades.
- ✓ Check to see if the VMS has automated deletion tools to help ensure storage capacity isn't consumed by video files that have gone past their retention date.

### Cloud Storage

- ✓ Confirm state laws and local ordinances allow cloud services to store video, as either primary or backup storage.
- ✓ Verify the service provider maintains up-to-date compliance with the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division (CJIS) security policy.
- ✓ Obtain information on all service costs and other purchasing factors that might apply for the life of the contract.
- ✓ Review the provider's capabilities for protecting uploaded video from unauthorized viewing, download, alteration and deletion.