

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

Sheriff Bill Flaten
Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office
415 9th Ave., Suite 103
Granite Falls, MN 56241

Dear Sheriff Flaten:

An independent audit of the Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office Portable Recording System (body-worn cameras (BWCs)) was conducted on June 16, 2026. The objective of the audit was to verify Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office compliance with Minnesota Statutes §§13.825 and 626.8473.

Data elements the audit includes:

Minnesota Statute §13.825

- Data Classification
- Retention of Data
- Access by Data Subjects
- Inventory of Portable Recording System Technology
- Use of Agency-Issued Portable Recording Systems
- Authorization to Access Data
- Sharing Among Agencies

Minnesota Statute §626.8473

- Public Comment
- Body-worn Camera Policy

The Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office employs fourteen (14) peace officers. The Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office utilizes Axon body-worn cameras and Evidence.com cloud-based evidence management storage. The audit covers the time period March 1, 2024, through May 31, 2026.

Audit Requirement: Data Classification

Determine if the data collected by BWCs are appropriately classified.

Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office BWC data is presumptively private. All BWC data collected during the audit period is classified as private or nonpublic data. The Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office had no instances of the discharge of a firearm by a peace officer in the course of duty, use of force by a peace officer that resulted in substantial bodily harm, requests from data subjects for the data to be made accessible to the public, or court orders directing the agency to release the BWC data to the public.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Retention of Data

Determine if the data collected by BWC's are appropriately retained and destroyed in accordance with statutes.

The Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office utilizes the General Retention Schedule for Minnesota Counties and agency specified retention periods Evidence.com. At the conclusion of a BWC recording, officers assign metadata, including an Evidence.com category, to the recording. Each Evidence.com category has an associated retention period. Upon reaching its retention date, evidence is systematically deleted. Deletion of the data is captured in the audit trail.

An Evidence Created Report consisting of all BWC data collected and deleted during the audit period was produced from Evidence.com. Records from the Evidence Created Report were reviewed and the date and time the data was created was verified against the deletion date. Each of the records were deleted or maintained in accordance with the record retention schedule. All records were maintained for at least the minimum ninety (90) days required by statute. Randomly selected audit trail reports were verified against the Evidence Created Report, and each record was deleted or maintained in accordance with the record retention.

The Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office received no requests from data subjects to retain BWC data beyond the applicable retention period during the audit period.

The Chief Deputy monitors BWC data for proper categorization to ensure BWC data are appropriately retained and destroyed.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Access by Data Subjects

Determine if individuals who are the subject of collected data have access to the data, and if the data subject requests a copy of the data, other individuals who do not consent to its release must be redacted.

BWC data is available to data subjects and access may be requested by completing a Request for Government Data form. During the audit period, the Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office received no requests to view BWC data but did receive and fulfill requests for copies of BWC data from data subjects. Data subjects who had not consented to the release of the data were redacted. Requests for BWC data are documented in the records management system dissemination log.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Inventory of Portable Recording System Technology

Determine the total number of recording devices owned and maintained by the agency; a daily record of the total number of recording devices actually deployed and used by officers, the

policies and procedures for use of portable recording systems by required by section 626.8473; and the total amount of recorded audio and video collected by the portable recording system and maintained by the agency, the agency's retention schedule for the data, the agency's procedures for destruction of the data, and that the data are available to the public.

Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office BWC inventory consists of fifteen (15) devices. An inventory report produced from Evidence.com detailed the total number of recording devices owned and maintained by the agency. The inventory included the device model, serial number, device name, officer assigned to the device, date of last upload, device status, error status, firmware version, warranty date, date last docked, and camera state.

The Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office BWC policy governs the use of portable recording systems by peace officers while in the performance of their duties. The policy requires officers to ensure their BWC is in good working order by conducting a function test at the beginning of each shift. Officers are required to report any malfunction or damage to the BWC to the BWC coordinator or on-duty supervisor as soon as practicable and, if possible, obtain a functioning BWC. The BWC policy requires officers to wear the BWC on their outermost garment positioned at or above the mid-line of the waist.

Peace officers were trained on the use of Axon BWCs by trained trainers and utilizing online Axon training materials.

Officers working on randomly selected dates, and randomly selected calls for service, were verified against Evidence.com and the Evidence Created Report and confirmed that BWCs are being deployed, and officers are wearing and activating their BWCs. A review of the total number of BWC videos collected per quarter shows that BWC data is consistently being collected.

Evidence.com queries and the Evidence Created Report detail the total amount of BWC data created, stored/maintained, and deleted.

The Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office utilizes the General Records Retention Schedule for Minnesota Counties and agency specified retention in Evidence.com. BWC video is fully deleted from Evidence.com upon reaching its scheduled deletion date. Metadata and audit trails are maintained in Evidence.com after deletion of BWC audio and video. BWC data is available upon request, and access may be requested by submission of a Request for Government Data form.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Use of Agency-Issued Portable Recording Systems

Determine if peace officers are only allowed to use portable recording systems issued and maintained by the officer's agency.

The Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office BWC policy states that only office-issued BWCs

should be used.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Authorization to Access Data

Determine if the agency complies with sections 13.05, Subd. 5, and 13.055 in the operation of portable recording systems and in maintaining portable recording system data.

The Sheriff and Chief Deputy conduct reviews of BWC data to ensure BWC data is properly categorized and that BWCs are being utilized in compliance with policy.

Nonpublic BWC data is only available to persons whose work assignment reasonably requires access to the data. User access to BWC data is managed by the assignment of roles and permissions in Evidence.com. Permissions are based on staff work assignments. Roles and permissions are administered by the Sheriff. Access to Evidence.com is password protected and requires dual authentication.

The agency's BWC policy governs access to BWC data. The BWC policy states that BWC data may only be accessed and viewed for legitimate office-related purposes in accordance with policy. User access to data is captured in the audit trail. The BWC policy states that any member who accesses or releases BWC media without authorization may be subject to discipline and may be subject to criminal penalties for the misuse of BWC media pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13.09.

When BWC data is deleted from Evidence.com, its contents cannot be determined. The Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office has had no security breaches. A BCA CJIS Security Audit was conducted in October of 2024.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Sharing Among Agencies

Determine if nonpublic BWC data is shared with other law enforcement agencies, government entities, or federal agencies.

The Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office BWC policy governs the sharing of BWC data with other law enforcement agencies and government entities. Other law enforcement agencies and government entities may obtain access to nonpublic BWC media for legitimate, specified law enforcement purposes. Agencies seeking access to BWC data are required to submit a written request. Sharing of BWC data is documented in the Evidence.com audit trail, the Evidence.com Sharing Audit Report, and the records management system dissemination log.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Biennial Audit

Determine if the agency maintains records showing the date and time the portable recording system data were collected, the applicable classification of the data, how the data are used, and whether data are destroyed as required.

Evidence.com and the Evidence Created Report document the date and time portable recording system data was collected and deleted. All BWC data collected during the audit period is classified as private or nonpublic data. The Evidence.com audit trails, the Sharing Audit Report and the records management system dissemination log document how the data are used and shared. The audit trail is maintained in Evidence.com after deletion of video.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Portable Recording System Vendor

Determine if portable recording system data stored in the cloud, is stored in accordance with security requirements of the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Information Services Division Security Policy 5.4 or its successor version.

An Axon CJIS Compliance White paper outlines the specific security policies and practices for Evidence.com and how they are compliant with the CJIS Security Policy. Axon has signed the CJIS Security Addendum in all states and has performed statewide CJIS-related vendor requirements in Minnesota. Axon has incorporated the CJIS Security Addendum by reference into the Axon Master Services and Purchase Agreement. Axon maintains signed CJIS Security Addendum certification pages for Axon personnel. Authorized Axon personnel are required to complete Level 4 CJIS Security Training upon assignment and biennially thereafter.

Axon Enterprise, Inc., Evidence.com/Axon Cloud Ecosystem appears on the BCA Vendor Screening Program list of approved and screened vendors and is vetted in accordance with the security requirements of the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Information Services Division Security Policy.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Public Comment

Determine if the law enforcement agency provided an opportunity for public comment before it purchased or implemented a portable recording system and if the governing body with jurisdiction over the budget of the law enforcement agency provided an opportunity for public comment at a regularly scheduled meeting.

The Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office solicited public comment prior to the purchase and implementation of the body-worn camera program. Public comment was solicited through a published notice requesting written comments no later than September 23, 2016. The Yellow

Medicine County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing at their October 5, 2017, meeting.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Body-Worn Camera Policy

Determine if a written policy governing the use of portable recording systems has been established and is enforced.

The Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office established and enforces a BWC policy. The policy was compared to the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 626.8473. The policy includes all minimum requirements of Minn. Stat. § 626.8473, Subd. 3(b). The BWC policy is posted on the agency's website.

No discrepancies noted.

This report was prepared exclusively for the Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office by Lynn Lembcke Consulting. The findings in this report are impartial and based on information and documentation provided and examined.

Dated: July 26, 2026

Lynn Lembcke Consulting



Lynn Lembcke