Published by 701 Report as source material. Reporter's personal phone number redacted; everything else as received.

Sheriff's office requires payment in advance, Oct. 23, 2026

From: "Hawkins, Taylor R." <thawkins@nd.gov>
To: "editor@701report.com" <editor@701report.com>
Date: Fri, 23 Oct 2026 20:38:33 +0000
Subject: Daniel Lamers Records Request

Good Afternoon,
I am the records custodian for the Oliver County Sheriff's Department. I received your records requests (see below) and the Sheriff has approved it. The Sheriff requires payment upfront for this request. I have attached a billing invoice for you. Once I have received the payment, I'll let you know, and I can start compiling what we have for you. Do you prefer me emailing you a scanned copy of the records or do you want me to mail them to you?
If you have any issues, please reach out to me. My office hours are 8 AM to 4 PM, Monday - Friday.
Respectfully,
Taylor Hawkins
Administrative Assistant
Oliver County Sheriff's Dept.
P.O. Box 362
Center, ND 58530
(701) 794-3450

To the records custodian:
Under N.D.C.C. 44-04-18, I request:

1. The office's current body-worn camera and in-car (dash) camera policy, or written confirmation that the office has no such policy and operates no such cameras.
2. The date the office's body-worn and in-car camera system was acquired and placed into service.
3. The office's take-home or assigned-vehicle policy, or written confirmation that none exists.

I am requesting records only. Please advise before processing if any fee will exceed $25. If any item is denied, please cite the specific authority under N.D.C.C. 44-04-18(7).

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Daniel Lamers
701 REPORT
Independent North Dakota News & Reporting
[redacted]
editor@701report.com<mailto:editor@701report.com>
701report.com<http://701report.com/>

701 Report questions the flat fee; sheriff's office reply, Oct. 23 to 24, 2026

From: "Hawkins, Taylor R." <thawkins@nd.gov>
To: Dan <editor@701report.com>
Date: Sat, 24 Oct 2026 15:07:24 +0000
Subject: Re: Daniel Lamers Records Request

Good Morning, sir. I didn't want to leave you hanging. Im off on the weekends but I will address your comments and concerns on Monday and have the Sheriff review them and see what he says. I'll get back to you hopefully before the end of the day on Monday. I apologize I dont have immediate answers for you. Have a good weekend!

_____

From: Dan <editor@701report.com>
Sent: Friday, 23 October 2026 16:12:08
To: Hawkins, Taylor R. <thawkins@nd.gov>
Subject: Re: Daniel Lamers Records Request

Hi Taylor,

Thanks for the invoice. Please email scanned copies.

The invoice lists a flat $10 for each item, but it doesn't show any hours or pages, so I'm not sure what the $10 covers. Under N.D.C.C. 44-04-18(2), the only fees allowed are up to 25 cents per page for paper copies, and up to $25 an hour for locating or redacting records after the first hour, which is free. The Attorney General has said a public entity may charge only the fees the statute specifically authorizes (N.D.A.G. 2025-O-07).

These are three policy documents, and I'm asking for them by email. Gathering them should fall well within the free first hour, and emailing them doesn't require any paper copies. If the $10 per item is for a flash drive or other physical media, I don't need that.

Could you tell me what the $10 per item is based on? If it reflects time beyond the first hour or a lawful copy cost, I'll pay it right away.

On Fri, Oct 23, 2026 at 3:38 PM Hawkins, Taylor R. <thawkins@nd.gov<mailto:thawkins@nd.gov>> wrote:

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Daniel Lamers

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Daniel Lamers

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