

**CITY OF BUCKEYE
Regular Council Meeting
COUNCIL ACTION REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 03/03/26	AGENDA ITEM: 4.E. FIN - Phoenix Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Application - FY25 Buckeye Fire Medical Rescue Department Unmanned Aerial Vehicle System
DATE PREPARED: 02/26/26	DISTRICT NO.: All
STAFF LIAISON: Rob Roach, Grant Program and Procurement Manager, rroach@buckeyeaz.gov, (623) 349-6165	
DEPARTMENT: Financial Services	AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Consent Agenda Items / New Business

ACTION/MOTION: (This language identifies the formal motion to be made by the Council)
Council to take action to ratify and approve the submission of a \$525,000 Phoenix Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) application through the Arizona Department of Homeland Security for the purchase of seven unmanned aerial vehicle systems (UAVs) to increase response time for public safety personnel when responding to and/or preventing emergency events.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS AREAS:
Innovative and High Performing Organizations

SUMMARY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The seven UAVs are required and necessary to conduct Hazardous Materials (HazMat), terrorist, and mass catastrophic event response activities including the identification of explosive devices. The Buckeye Fire-Medical-Rescue Department (BFMRD) currently has four older drones that lack current state-of-the-art technology.

The requested UAVs have advanced wide cameras with zoom functionality, as well as thermal capability to aid in identifying potential threats. The use of UAVs by fire departments across the nation have proven to reduce the risk of injury or death when responding to dangerous calls. UAVs can be deployed rapidly and can assess the scenes of emergencies, distribute fire retardant or water on fires, safely monitor a fire or HazMat situation, aid in search-and-rescue calls, deliver life-saving supplies to stranded individuals and locate potential hot zones. The UAVs can gather information and intelligence which can be analyzed and shared across jurisdictions to assist in forming plans of action. In addition to the 642 square miles that contain the rapidly growing population of the City of Buckeye, BFMRD is called upon to assist other jurisdictions.

If awarded, BFMRD will re-assess the equipment to be purchased depending upon the requirements of the grantor and availability of products in the United States, including replacement components.

BENEFITS:

The funding will enhance efforts to prevent, contain and assess catastrophic events. BFMRD will deploy UAVs in search-and-rescue calls for service, structural and commercial fires, natural disasters, HazMat events, investigations and building inspections. As the westernmost city in the Phoenix metropolitan area, with major arteries such as I-10, State Route 85 and Maricopa County 85 running through Buckeye, it positions Buckeye to aid all Metro Phoenix cities during a terrorist and mass catastrophic event. The ability to effectively and safely assess an emergency without placing first responders in potentially dangerous environments will benefit multi-jurisdictions. BFMRD anticipates that due to the

rapid growth of Buckeye and its neighboring cities, calls for service will only increase, and the acquisition of seven drones with state-of-the-art technology will assist greatly in providing for the safety of the residents of Maricopa County.

FUTURE ACTION:

Once all grant funds have been expended, further expenses will become part of the Buckeye Fire-Medical-Rescue Department budget and will be annually funded from the City's General Fund.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The grant funds are \$525,000.00 with no anticipated matching funds from the City of Buckeye.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR TOTAL COST:

It is anticipated that the grant funds will be awarded next fiscal year with no impact to the current year.

BUDGETED:

Yes

FISCAL YEAR:

FY 2026

FUND/DEPARTMENT:

35742140

Items related to a project or facility location must include an attached vicinity map for Council Review.

ATTACHMENTS:

[FY 25 Fire Phoenix Urban Area Security Initiative Drones Grant Application.pdf](#)

[CAR Recap Summary UASI - Drones FY26 2-17-2026.docx](#)