

OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 10, 2021

TO: Mark S. Watson, City Manager

FROM: Chris Wallace

SUBJECT: Proposed Purchase of Small Unmanned Aircraft System/Drones for Joint Use by Oak Ridge Police Department and Oak Ridge Fire Department.

SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT: -None-

Introduction

An item for the agenda is the consideration of the purchase of three (3) Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS), along with accessories and training, by Rocky Mountain Unmanned Systems, LLC, (RMUS) for joint use by the Oak Ridge Police Department (ORPD) and Oak Ridge Fire Department (ORFD). The purpose of the sUAS is to enhance public safety while minimizing the risks and dangers to first responders. This purchase is not to exceed \$56,624.00, utilizing federal grant funding.

Funding

The purchase price of the sUAS aircraft, accessories and training will be covered in the entirety with grant funds provided by the Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Police Department Police Response Enhancement grant. This equipment was pre-approved by DOE grant officials.

Background

When responding to incidents involving armed persons or other imminent threats, police officers are exposed to danger while searching and gathering information. Likewise, firefighters are exposed to danger while assessing fire and/or hazardous materials incidents. Searches for lost persons are often impeded by dense vegetation or delayed while awaiting all-terrain vehicles or boats. A drone can perform these tasks without delay and without placing responders at risk.

The ORPD proposes the purchase of sUAS to provide safe and efficient aerial observation and intelligence collection. Training will be provided by the vendor and documented to include the following: fundamentals of aviation, applicable federal aviation regulations, public aircraft operations, safety management systems, community concerns regarding the use of UAS by government agencies, state and local laws concerning UAS operations, and legal and liability issues.

Recommendation

Approval of the attached resolution is recommended, which approves the purchase of three (3) aircraft systems, accessories, and training from Rocky Mountain Unmanned Systems, LLC, (RMUS) at a cost of \$56,624.00

Attachments:

[RFQ 171533 Abstract.pdf](#)

[Resolution - Drones.docx](#)