



Fire Department

COUNTY OF TULARE

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: May 2, 2023 - Revised

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Charlie Norman PHONE: 559-802-9800

SUBJECT: Approve a Capital Asset Purchase

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the capital asset purchase of four (4) thermal drones with necessary accessories to support the day-to-day operations of the Fire Department, in an amount not to exceed \$30,500 in Fiscal Year 2022/23;
2. Authorize the necessary budget adjustments per the attached AUD 308 (4/5ths vote required).

SUMMARY:

The Tulare County Fire Department (TCFD) is requesting approval to purchase four thermal drones with corresponding accessories to improve emergency operations response. Drone technology is advancing rapidly, and fire departments throughout the United States are increasingly leveraging their benefits during firefighting operations. Drones provide rapid deployment, reach, and adaptability to fire departments with improved situational awareness and enhanced disaster response.

Due to the many large-scale fires and, most recently, the major flooding events, the Department wishes to utilize drones to leverage its emergency response operations. Drones outfitted with high-definition infrared (IR) cameras give firefighters thermal imaging capabilities to see what the naked eye cannot. This enables fire staff to monitor hotspots, identify deployed personnel, and locate people trapped inside structures despite the lack of visibility.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The total cost of the drones and necessary accessories is \$30,122. A contingency of \$378 to allow for any unforeseen costs, for a total of \$30,500. TCFD will absorb the cost within its approved operating budget for Fiscal Year 2022/23. The Department is

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requesting a budget adjustment to increase Capital Asset 013-245-2200-8312 by \$30,500 and decrease supplies and services by the same amount. There will be no cost to the General Fund.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Safety and Security initiative, which calls for planning and coordinating emergency preparedness and response. Approval of this purchase would increase the ability of the Fire Department to provide enhanced services to the citizens and communities in Tulare County.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

_____/s/Charlie Norman_____
Charlie Norman
Fire Chief

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachments: Drone Quote
AUD 308 Budget Adjustment