



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

**DATE:** August 22, 2023

**TO:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**COMMITTEE:** Fiscal Committee

**LIAISON:** Molly Clarin, Chief Financial Officer

**FROM:** Matt Weibel, Chief of Staff  
Police Department

**SUBJECT:** **Resolution authorizing a goods and services agreement with Unmanned Vehicle Technologies to procure small Unmanned Vehicle System technology in the amount of \$99,264.16**

Pursuant to Sec. 2(c) of Administrative Policy (AP) 15-03, the Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD) requests authorization for the City to enter into a professional service agreement with Unmanned Vehicle Technologies (UVT) in the amount of \$99,264.16 for the purchase and delivery of small Unmanned Aerial System (sUAS) technology, including drone equipment, licenses, accessories, and training. UVT's proposal as presented to the City meets all the specifications of the bid document at the lowest price.

The equipment to be purchased includes six (6) DJI Mavic Enterprise drone units, two (2) DJI Matrice 30T drone units, as well as batteries and kits, carrying cases, launch pads, memory cards, and Axon Air annual licensing. See the Bid List Resolution for a complete list of equipment, training, and software provided.

## **Timeline and Compliance with AP 15-03**

On March 28, 2023, the Public Safety Committee unanimously supported the Police Chief's request to acquire sUAS technology, which led to a public hearing on April 25 in compliance with AP 15-03 "Acquisition and Use of Surveillance Equipment and Surveillance Services." In addition to the required public hearing, GRPD has held several community engagement events to discuss the proposed use of drones, answer questions from the community, and receive feedback.

## **Draft Policy Language and Considerations**

GRPD, with review and feedback from the Office of Public Accountability (OPA) and in consideration of public feedback, has written a draft policy on the use of sUAS in alignment with AP 15-03. The acquisition of new surveillance equipment or surveillance services is subject to approval by the Fiscal Committee. The policy addresses privacy

considerations by confirming sUAS will not be used for weapon deployment, spying, routine surveillance, or to harass, intimidate or discriminate against any individual or group. Additionally, the policy recognizes the role OPA has in oversight of the proposed surveillance equipment, including receiving complaints and conducting investigative audits.

As required by AP 15-03, the sUAS policy includes the following statement describing the purpose and use of the proposed equipment:

To utilize UAS as a resource for the department to protect lives, safeguard property, document incident scenes, and detect danger that could not otherwise be seen. To conduct UAS operations in a legal and constitutional manner as required under local, state, and federal regulations. To operate UAS in a manner that is mindful of individual privacy rights that may be affected, including the reasonable expectation of privacy in the home and areas immediately surrounding the main structure, or curtilage, as defined by case law.

The use of sUAS technology is in line with GRPD's stated strategic priorities of promoting safety, innovation, and engagement. GRPD will use sUAS equipment for vehicle crash scene investigation and documentation, crime scene investigation and documentation, hazardous materials incidents, search and rescue operations, disaster incidents, search for fleeing suspect(s), tactical operations and critical incidents, and as operational support for special events where an aerial view is necessary to ensure safety and minimize the number of officers needed on site to better manage daily staffing and potentially, overtime costs associated with the event.

### **Implementation**

Upon approval of this request, GRPD will have its drone program fully operational within one month. GRPD and UVT are prepared to offer the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Part 107 certified remote pilot training by the end of August. UVT expects to deliver the equipment by mid-September.


Please place this item on the City Commission agenda for August 22, 2023.

YOUR FISCAL COMMITTEE recommends adoption of the following resolution approving an Agreement with Unmanned Vehicle Technologies for the purchase of small Unmanned Aerial System technology.

RESOLVED:

1. That the City Commission authorizes an Agreement with Unmanned Vehicle Technologies for the purchase of small Unmanned Aerial System technology for an amount not to exceed \$99,246.16; and
2. That the Mayor is authorized to execute said Agreement upon approval as to form by the City Attorney; and
3. That the Comptroller is authorized and directed to pay invoices pursuant to the terms of said Agreement.

Prepared by Matt Weibel

CORRECT IN FORM  
  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW