

COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

Memorial City Hall
24 South Street
Auburn, New York 13021

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: Dep. Chief of Police, Roger Anthony

DATE: September 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Award Resolution #89 of 2020 Awarding a Bid for the Purchase of an Unmanned Aerial System for the Auburn Police Department

BACKGROUND:

The Auburn Police Department is developing a drone program as an additional tool to provide effective public safety and law enforcement operations. Unmanned aerial systems, also known as “drones” have become common place in police agencies across the country. There are vast arrays of practical uses for drones in our police agency as well as other city agencies that provide a safe environment for our city residents.

A public safety drone would be utilized as follows:

- Missing and endangered person searches, day and night, thermal imagery.
- Real time situational awareness during critical incidents
- Vehicle accident scene investigation and reconstruction
- Support officers serving warrants
- Fugitive location and apprehension
- Crime scene reconstruction and imagery
- Tactical operations
- Assist firefighting efforts
- Disaster response
- Crowd monitoring and safety
- Investigating armed and dangerous subjects
- Hazardous materials observation

On July 24th, 2020, the City of Auburn published a bid request for the purpose of obtaining bids on a specified public safety drone system. On August 5th, 2020 the proposals were opened and FLIR Maritime US, Inc. provided a bid, which met the specifications set forth in the bid request.

Vendor FLIR Maritime US, Inc. submitted the lowest and sole bid in response to a bid request and, based upon previous drone research that we conducted, this bid was in line with the fair market value.

This drone is the Skyraanger R70 designed specifically for rugged applications, with a carbon fiber and magnesium frame. The R70 is equipped with the most capable camera system on the market and is designed for all weather applications. The R70 is also equipped with a high-fidelity infrared camera capable of capturing thermal imagery in day and night operations in all weather conditions. The R70 has a four-battery power supply that offers the longest flight time on the market. The drone has software capabilities that live stream to remote personnel such as the command post operations.

Privacy concerns must be addressed and protected by a responsible drone policy. APD has created a policy for the drone program so that the privacy of residents of Auburn is well protected and respected in our policy. Some examples of prohibited drone uses are:

- Remote pilots shall not conduct random surveillance activities
- Remote pilots shall not target a person based on any actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender orientation, economic status, age, cultural group or disability.
- Remote pilots shall not harass, intimidate or discriminate against any individual or group.
- Absent a warrant or exigent circumstances, operators and observers shall adhere to regulations and shall not intentionally record or transmit images of any location where a person would have a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., residence, yard, and enclosure).
- All missions will be documented in an applicable written report, and all mission times shall be accurately recorded. Each deployment of the drone shall include information regarding the reason for the mission, the time, date, and location of the mission, the name of the supervisor approving the deployment and the staff assigned. A summary of the activities covered, actions taken, and outcome of the deployment will be completed.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the Office of the Chief of Police that the Mayor and City Council award the purchase of the specified unmanned aircraft to FLIR Maritime US, Inc.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

The overall project cost will be in the amount of \$66,900.00 to be funded through Equitable Sharing Account CM.3120.220.APD.