



## BLAIR POLICE DEPARTMENT Inter-Department Memo

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**TO: Chief Kinsey**

**FROM: Sergeant Joshua Hatheway**

**DATE: 05/30/2026**

**RE: Public Safety Bond Fund Request – Drone Program Equipment and Technology Upgrades**

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**REQUESTED AMOUNT: \$35,241.08**

The Blair Police Department requests approval to utilize Public Safety Bond Funds in the amount of \$35,241.08 for the purchase of drone equipment, technology upgrades, and supporting hardware necessary to modernize and expand the department's sUAS (Drone) Program.

The proposed purchases represent a comprehensive modernization of the department's drone capabilities and include weather-rated outdoor drone systems, indoor tactical drones, flight batteries, charging systems, controllers, cases, power equipment, mapping technology, and a dedicated drone operations workstation. These purchases will enhance the department's ability to safely and effectively respond to incidents while supporting the continued growth of the Drone Team.

### **PROJECT NEED**

- The department currently utilizes a retired Microsoft Surface Pro computer that was previously assigned to the City Council and replaced in 2022. While functional for basic tasks, it lacks the processing capability required for modern drone mapping, image processing, orthomosaic generation, crash reconstruction support, and digital evidence management.
- The department's primary outdoor drone platforms were purchased in 2023 and are not weather-rated aircraft. This limits deployment during adverse weather conditions and emergency incidents when aerial intelligence is often needed most.

- The Blair Police Department Drone Team continues to expand and requires additional equipment to support increased operational demands, additional personnel, and evolving public safety missions.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

The Blair Police Department Drone Team has become an essential public safety resource supporting patrol operations, search and rescue missions, critical incident response, tactical operations, disaster assessment, crime scene documentation, crash investigations, and community event management. Drone technology provides officers with enhanced situational awareness while improving safety and operational effectiveness during a variety of incidents.

As the program continues to expand, additional equipment and technology are required to maintain operational readiness and ensure personnel have the tools necessary to effectively serve the community.

The requested outdoor drone systems will provide enhanced aerial capabilities, improved imaging technology, increased reliability, and expanded operational flexibility. Unlike the department's current outdoor drones purchased in 2023, the new systems are weather-rated and designed to improve mission effectiveness during adverse weather and challenging operational environments. These systems will support emergency response efforts, evidence collection, search operations, disaster response, and situational awareness during critical incidents.

The requested indoor tactical drone systems will allow officers to safely assess buildings, confined spaces, and other hazardous environments prior to officer entry. These capabilities increase officer safety while providing valuable intelligence during tactical incidents, warrant service, barricaded subject situations, high-risk searches, and other critical law enforcement operations.

Additional batteries, charging systems, controllers, memory storage, portable power supplies, and support equipment will improve mission readiness and operational sustainability during extended incidents, severe weather events, large-scale community events, and emergency deployments. These items ensure drone systems remain available when needed and reduce downtime caused by charging and equipment limitations.

The department currently utilizes a Microsoft Surface Pro that was previously assigned to the City Council and replaced in 2022. While the device has allowed the Drone Team to perform basic functions, it lacks the processing capability necessary for modern drone mapping, image processing, orthomosaic generation, crash reconstruction support, and large-scale data management. The purchase of dedicated drone operations and mapping laptop will provide the computing power necessary to process drone imagery, create maps and

orthomosaic products, manage digital evidence, support crash reconstruction efforts, document crime scenes, and perform mission planning functions.

Equipment pricing is based on vendor quotations and pricing obtained during the evaluation process. UVT, B&H Photo Video, and Amazon were selected after comparing available pricing and were determined to provide the best value for the equipment being requested.

These purchases will modernize the department's drone fleet, improve officer safety, increase operational effectiveness, and ensure the Drone Team remains mission capable for future public safety needs. The investment will provide long-term value to the City of Blair while enhancing the department's ability to protect and serve the community.

**PROJECT COST SUMMARY**

Outdoor Drone Systems and Accessories.....	\$27,571.10
Indoor Drone Systems and Accessories.....	\$4,081.98
Drone Support Equipment and Accessories.....	\$1,088.00
Dedicated Drone Operations / Mapping Laptop.....	\$2,500.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST.....</b>	<b>\$35,241.08</b>

## **ATTACHMENT A – EQUIPMENT INCLUDED IN REQUEST**

### Outdoor Drone Program Equipment

- Weather-rated public safety drone systems
- Additional flight batteries
- Remote controllers
- Drone lighting systems
- Protective transport cases
- Charging equipment
- Launch and landing equipment
- Mission support equipment

### Indoor Tactical Drone Equipment

- Indoor tactical drone systems
- Additional flight batteries
- Remote controllers
- Replacement propellers and components
- Protective carrying cases
- Training and operational accessories

### Drone Support Equipment

- Portable power station
- Multi-battery charging systems
- Landing pads
- High-capacity memory cards
- Charging cables and adapters
- Portable power accessories
- Protective equipment cases
- Field deployment accessories

### Technology and Mapping Equipment

- Dedicated drone operations laptop
- Mapping and imagery processing capability
- Orthomosaic and aerial mapping support
- Crash reconstruction support
- Crime scene documentation capability
- Digital evidence management support
- Mission planning and operational software support

Respectfully,

**Sergeant Joshua Hatheway**  
**sUAS (Drone) Team Coordinator.**  
Blair Police Department

