

MEMORANDUM

To: Mark Berman, City Attorney

From: Kimberly Spill-Cristiano, Emergency Management Administrator, MA, CEM, FPEM

Date: 06/26/25

Re: Resolution Request: Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Drone Replacement Program (DRP),

Financial Assistance Non-Matching Grant Agreement

The Fire Department would like to request the preparation of a resolution for the Commission meeting scheduled for July 8th, 2025 ratifying the acceptance of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Drone Replacement Program (DRP) Financial Assistance Agreement, and execution by the proper City officials.

Drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), have become essential tools in emergency management and emergency response due to their ability to rapidly access hard-to-reach or hazardous areas, provide real-time data, and enhance situational awareness.

The Florida Legislature amended Section 934.50, Florida Statutes during the 2022 session. By July 1, 2022 governmental agencies using any drone not produced by an approved manufacturer must implement a plan to discontinue the use of the such drone by January 1, 2023. This grant provides funding to the Fire Department to replace drones that are not in compliance with Rule S0GG-2.0075, Florida Administrative Code.

In accordance with revised program guidelines established in the 2024 legislative session, the first two functional drones of each make and model relinquished to FDLE, will be provided to the Florida Center for Cybersecurity at the University of South Florida (USF) for analysis.

This non-matching grant agreement will be utilized to replace two existing drones within the Fire Department that have been deemed to be non-compliant with current minimum-security standards as established in Rule 60GG-2.0075, Florida Administrative Code. The Fire Department will be awarded funds in an amount commensurate with the



replacement cost, not to exceed \$25,000 per compliant drone, for each noncompliant drone relinquished to FDLE that also remains in working order and has not reached its end of life.

If you have any questions or comments, I can be reached at 954-545-7799 or 954-242-0565.

Thank you in advance.

CC: Peter McGinnis, Fire Chief