



# Belle Isle Police Department

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October 23, 2025

**To:** Rick Rudometkin, City Manager  
**Cc:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**From:** Chief Travis Grimm, Belle Isle Police Department

**Subject:** FDLE Drone Replacement Program – Background and Grant Award  
Notification

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## Background

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) established the Drone Replacement Program to support law enforcement agencies throughout the state in replacing unmanned aircraft systems that no longer meet Florida's operational and data security requirements. Due to national security concerns and recent statutory changes, specific drone platforms were removed from the list of approved law enforcement equipment. In response, the FDLE made state funds available so that agencies could transition to compliant, secure technology without placing a financial burden on local taxpayers. Departments were required to apply for the program and demonstrate need, operational readiness, and a compliant replacement plan. The Belle Isle Police Department was selected and approved by the FDLE to receive up to \$25,000 in reimbursement funding for a replacement drone system. Only a limited number of agencies statewide were awarded through this initiative, and our selection reflects well on the department's reputation, compliance record, and the professional manner in which our staff manages equipment and technology.

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## Award and Intended Use

The department has been approved for reimbursement of up to \$25,000 for the purchase of a compliant drone and related equipment. The approved replacement platform is the Skydio X10, which will support:

- Search and rescue operations
- Crime scene documentation
- Missing/endangered person cases
- Disaster response and storm damage mapping
- Patrol support and situational awareness

This equipment significantly enhances our capabilities while ensuring that Belle Isle remains compliant with state law and current security standards.

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## Next Step

Because this is a reimbursement-based award, the City must approve the purchase and

temporarily issue payment to the vendor. Once payment is made, Belle Isle PD will submit the final invoice and required documentation to FDLE, which will then reimburse the City for the full amount of the purchase.

A separate agenda action request will follow, asking the City Council to:

1. Formally accept the FDLE grant funds, and
2. Approve the purchase of the Skydio X10 drone system.

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### **Summary**

Belle Isle Police Department has been awarded state funding through FDLE to modernize and replace its drone technology at no cost to the City. This program strengthens our emergency response and public safety capabilities while maintaining full compliance with state-mandated equipment standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Travis Grimm".

Travis Grimm  
Chief of Police  
Belle Isle Police Department

*\*Community First\**