

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Custom Mobile Drone Command and Control Van for Fire & EMS
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council approve the purchase of a custom designed drone command van for the Fire & EMS Department from Airworx Unmanned Solutions (Greenville, SC) in the amount of \$149,000.00.

Airworx will provide a fully integrated mobile drone command van specifically tailored to the needs of the Fire & EMS Department. The drone command van will be used as a mobile hub to launch, track, and manage unmanned aerial systems (UAS). The drone command van will allow incident commanders to process live thermal and high-definition video feeds on the scene, drastically improving tactical choices, crew safety, and search efficiency.

According to Fleet Management, this procurement includes the custom upfitting of a 2026 Ford Transit van vehicle number 3667, VIN# 1FTBW3X8XTKA66052, into a highly specialized, mobile drone operations center. The unit requires integration of custom power systems, climate control, retractable roof launching ports, and secure on-board data processing servers. Further, Fleet Management documents that Airworx is the only known vendor capable of providing the necessary design, fabrication, and technology integration required by the City, for the following reasons:

- **Proprietary Technology/Integration:** Airworx possesses exclusive, patented [e.g., roof-hatch deployment mechanisms, specific command software integration] that is critical to operational workflow.
- **Compatibility with Existing Systems:** The van's telecommunications and charging infrastructure must seamlessly interface with existing Airworx drone fleet and proprietary software without third-party bridging, which only this vendor can natively engineer and guarantee.
- **Custom Fabrication Expertise:** Unlike standard commercial upfitters, Airworx specializes exclusively in public safety drone vans and holds the proprietary rights and specialized accreditations needed to build the vehicle to [FAA / NFPA] standards while retaining the manufacturer's structural warranty.

Consequently, Airworx is considered the only known source for this purchase, per Article 3-114 of the Procurement Ordinance.

Funds are available in the FY27 Budget: 2021 Sales Tax Project Fund - 2021 SPLOST - 21 SPLOST Public Safety – Light Trucks - Public Safety Vehicles/Equipment - Fire/EMS; 0567 – 696 - 3111 – STPS – 7722 – 54152 – 20260.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A CUSTOM DESIGNED DRONE COMMAND VAN FOR THE FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT FROM AIRWORX UNMANNED SOLUTIONS (GREENVILLE, SC) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$149,000.00.

WHEREAS, Airworx will provide a fully integrated mobile drone command van specifically tailored to the needs of the Fire & EMS Department. The drone command van will be used as a mobile hub to launch, track, and manage unmanned aerial systems (UAS). The drone command van will allow incident commanders to process live thermal and high-definition video feeds on the scene, drastically improving tactical choices, crew safety, and search efficiency; and,

WHEREAS, according to Fleet Management, this procurement includes the custom upfitting of a 2026 Ford Transit van vehicle number 3667, VIN# 1FTBW3X8XTKA66052, into a highly specialized, mobile drone operations center. The unit requires integration of custom power systems, climate control, retractable roof launching ports, and secure on-board data processing servers. Further, Fleet Management documents that Airworx is the only known vendor capable of providing the necessary design, fabrication, and technology integration required by the City, for the following reasons:

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NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager and/or his designee is hereby authorized to purchase a custom designed drone command van for the Fire & EMS Department from Airworx Unmanned Solutions (Greenville, SC) in the amount of \$149,000.00. Funds are available in the FY27 Budget: 2021 Sales Tax Project Fund - 2021 SPLOST - 21 SPLOST Public Safety – Light Trucks - Public Safety Vehicles/Equipment - Fire/EMS; 0567 – 696 - 3111 – STPS – 7722 – 54152 – 20260.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Barnes voting	_____.
Councilor Chambers voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Cook voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor