

**Columbus Consolidated Government  
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Councilors
<b>AGENDA SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Norfolk Southern Safety-First Grant – Fire/ EMS</b>
<b>AGENDA SUMMARY:</b>	Approval is requested to apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 or as otherwise awarded from the Norfolk Southern Safety-First grant program to help fund the purchase of a public safety robot – Spot. There are no matching funds required.
<b>INITIATED BY:</b>	<b>Fire/EMS</b>

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**Recommendation:** Approval is requested to apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 or as otherwise awarded from the Norfolk Southern Safety-First grant program to help fund the purchase of a public safety robot – Spot. There are no matching funds required.

**Background:** Funds will be requested from the Norfolk Southern Safety-First grant program to help fund the purchase of a public safety robot – Spot. The acquisition of this robot represents a strategic investment in public safety infrastructure. Robotics is part of the Fire-EMS Department’s Digital Vanguard Initiative – a bold step forward in technology to support public safety in Columbus and Muscogee County. Spot is engineered to navigate challenging terrains and environments, making it an invaluable asset for emergency response teams. Equipped with advanced sensors and cameras, Spot can assess hazardous situations—such as chemical spills, structurally compromised buildings, or areas with potential explosive threats—without endangering human personnel. This capability allows first responders to obtain critical situational awareness remotely, facilitating informed decision-making and enhancing the safety of both the public and emergency personnel. By integrating Spot into our public safety operations, the city council is embracing innovative technology to proactively address complex emergencies, ultimately aiming to save lives and reduce risk.

**Analysis:** Columbus Fire and Emergency Medical Services is requesting funds towards the purchase of a Spot robot to support all of public safety.

**Financial Considerations:** The grant is for seed money towards the purchase of a Spot robot with public safety payloads. The total amount requested is \$15,000.00, with no matching funds required.

**Legal Considerations:** The Consolidated Government of Columbus is eligible to receive these funds.

**Recommendation/Action:** Approval is requested to apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 or as otherwise awarded from the Norfolk Southern Safety First grant program to help fund the purchase of a public safety robot – Spot. There are no matching funds required.

**A RESOLUTION  
NO.**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT, IF AWARDED, A GRANT FOR SEED MONEY TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF A SPOT ROBOT WITH PUBLIC SAFETY PAYLOADS FOR \$15,000.00, OR AS OTHERWISE AWARDED, FROM THE NORFOLK SOUTHERN SAFETY-FIRST GRANT PROGRAM WITH NO MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED. THE MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL FUND WILL BE AMENDED BY THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD.**

**WHEREAS**, the Columbus Fire and Emergency Medical Services (CFEMS) is requesting funds for seed money towards the purchase of a robot and public safety payloads for a total of \$15,000.00;and,

**WHEREAS**, the robot is part of the Fire-EMS Department’s Digital Vanguard Initiative designed to support all of public safety; and,

**WHEREAS**, the acquisition of robotics in public safety represents a bold step forward in responder safety and the prudent utilization of technology to support public safety; and,

**WHEREAS**, this grant proposal will require no matching funds; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HERBY RESOLVES:**

- 1) That the Mayor or his designee is hereby authorized to approve the Norfolk Southern Safety First grant program application for seed money towards a Spot robot for Columbus Fire and Emergency Medical Services for \$15,000.00 or as otherwise awarded with no matching funds required.
- 2) That the Multi-Governmental Fund will be amended by the amount of the award.

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Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_\_\_ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Anker voting	_____.
Councilor Barnes voting	_____.
Councilor Chamber voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Hickey voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

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Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

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B. H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor