

## Staff Report

**Subject:** USDA Equipment Grants Program (EGP)  
**Author:** Jody Jones, Grants Coordinator presented by Mark W. Barnes,  
Finance Director  
**Department:** Finance Department  
**Meeting Date:** 5/2/23  
**Item Description:** Consideration to submit a grant application to USDA Equipment Grants Program (EGP).

### **Summary Recommendation:**

Staff is requesting approval to submit a grant application to USDA Equipment Grants Program (EGP).

### **Executive Summary:**

The Equipment Grant Program (EGP) serves to increase access to shared-use special purpose equipment/instruments for fundamental and applied research for use in the food and agricultural sciences programs at institutions of higher education, including State Cooperative Extension Systems. The program seeks to strengthen the quality and expand the scope of fundamental and applied research at eligible institutions, by providing them with opportunities to acquire one major piece of equipment/instrument that support their research, training, and extension goals and may be too costly and/or not appropriate for support through other NIFA grant programs. EGP grants are not intended to replace requests for equipment in individual project applications. The program emphasizes shared-use instrumentation that will enhance the capabilities of researchers, educators, and extension agents both within and outside the proposing organization.

### **Background:**

1. If awarded, the funding will be used to purchase a DJI AGRAS T40 Agricultural Drone Ready to Fly Kit for the UGA Extension Office.
2. The cost of the drone is \$26,519.
3. The funding floor is \$25,000 and the ceiling is \$500,000.

### **Alternatives for Commission to Consider:**

1. Approve the submittal of a grant application to USDA Equipment Grant Program.
2. Do not approve the submittal of a grant application to USDA Equipment Grant Program.
3. Provide Staff with Direction

### **Recommended Alternative:**

Staff recommends Alternative number 1 – Approve the submittal of a grant application to USDA Equipment Grant Program.

**Other Alternatives:**

N/A

**Department Review:** *(list departments)*

Finance, UGA County Extension Office

**Funding Source:**

**Attachments:**

Equipment Grants Program Additional Information