



Eustis Police Department

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Administrative Services Division

TO: EUSTIS CITY COMMISSION

FROM: TOM CARRINO, CITY MANAGER

DATE: October 23, 2025

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NUMBER 25-84; AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE AND DEPLOY A SKYDIO DRONE UTILIZING FDLE FY25–26 DRONE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS

Introduction:

Resolution Number 25-84 authorizes the Eustis Police Department to purchase and deploy a Skydio drone system utilizing funds awarded through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) FY25–26 Drone Replacement Program Grant in the amount of \$25,000.

Background:

The Eustis Police Department continues to implement technology designed to enhance officer safety, improve operational efficiency, and increase transparency. Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), commonly referred to as drones, have become critical tools in law enforcement for search and rescue operations, traffic crash reconstruction, crime scene documentation, and tactical incident response.

Through the **FDLE FY25–26 Drone Replacement Program**, the Department has secured **\$25,000 in grant funding** to acquire and deploy an advanced drone system to support public safety operations. This grant will cover the full cost of procurement, including drone hardware, accessories, training, and software integration.

After evaluating available platforms, the Department identified the **Skydio drone system** as the best fit for its operational needs. The Skydio system features **AI-driven obstacle avoidance, autonomous flight, and real-time situational awareness capabilities** that allow it to operate safely in complex or confined environments such as wooded areas, urban neighborhoods, or during tactical deployments.

The system also integrates directly with the Department's existing **Axon Evidence (Evidence.com)** digital evidence management platform. This integration ensures automatic upload, secure storage, and proper chain-of-custody compliance for all recorded flight data, aligning with the Department's established standards for digital evidence.

The deployment of the Skydio system will enhance the Department's ability to respond efficiently to critical incidents, improve documentation of scenes, and support community safety initiatives.

Budget/Staff Impact:

The FDLE FY25–26 Drone Replacement Program Grant provides **\$25,000** in funding to fully cover the cost of the Skydio drone system, accessories, training, and related software.
No additional City funds are required.

Recommended Action:

The administration recommends approval of Resolution Number 25-84.

Reviewed By:

Tom Carrino, City Manager

Craig A. Capri, Chief of Police

Prepared By:

Captain Jonathan Fahning, Administrative Services Commander