



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

FROM: Blake Hayward – Fire Chief

DATE OF MEETING: October 09, 2023

ITEM TITLE: Transfer of Drone Ownership

BACKGROUND:

Approximately 5 years ago groups got together and wrote grants for a Countywide Drone Program.

DISCUSSION:

Buchanan County Emergency Management is seeking ownership of our DJI Matrice 300 Drone Equipment. In talking with Rick Wulfekuhle & Chris Hare, they would take over ownership of the DJI Matrice 300 Drone and equipment and house it at the Buchanan County Annex Building once their addition is complete. They will add it to the County insurance policy and take over the maintenance. Independence Fire along with all public safety agencies in the County will still have access to it and it will still be able to be deployed if requested, it will just be deployed from BCEMA instead. History on the drone program; back when we started our drone program it was a joint effort between Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, and EMA. When we wrote the grants, we had to have 1 sponsor agency to submit the grants under and Independence Fire chose to do that at that time. We received grants from Buchanan County Community Foundation, Black Hawk Gaming Association, Banklowa, and Alliance Pipeline. All funds were used to purchase our original drone. The current drone needs replacement batteries and with budget constraints we are currently unable to purchase the batteries at this time. BCEMA has a couple of different funding options that they can use to purchase the needed batteries as well as have the staff to help maintain the equipment more efficiently.

RESULTS:

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of Expanding and Enhancing Infrastructure. This item helps achieve that vision as the Independence Fire Department and the Buchanan County Emergency Management will be working together in use of the drone during necessary situations.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

BCEMA will take over maintenance and insurance costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends a motion to approve the transfer of drone ownership and authorizes the City Manager to sign the bill of sale and instrument of assignment.