



FEMA

May 16, 2025

Mark James
Director
Missouri Department of Public Safety
P.O. Box 749
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Subject: Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) Approval Letter

Dear Director James:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) has reviewed the request submitted by the Missouri Department of Public Safety, on behalf of Jackson Fire Rescue, to use up to \$14,750 of its Fiscal Year 2021 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) – State Homeland Security Program funding, Award # EMW-2021-SS-00038, to purchase one (1) Parrot ANAFI USA GOV sUAS with batteries, carry case, and other associated equipment as detailed in the original request letter. The requested equipment meets the requirements detailed in program guidance and is approved for uses consistent with the terms of the HSGP award.

This letter does not constitute an endorsement of any particular vendor and FEMA reminds you that all grant-funded procurements must be executed in a manner compliant with Federal procurement standards at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.327. For recipients that use HSGP funds for sUAS(s), FEMA advises that there is a general privacy concern related to the use of this equipment if the data the devices collect is transmitted to servers not under the control of the operator. It has been reported that some manufacturers of sUASs encrypt data and send that data to servers outside the United States.

Even though this request is approved, FEMA is drawing your attention to section 889(b) of the [John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 \(FY 2019 NDAA\)](#), Pub. L. No. 115-232 (2018), as implemented through [2 C.F.R. § 200.216](#) and [FEMA Policy #405-143-1](#), Prohibitions on Expending FEMA Award Funds for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services (Interim). Effective August 13, 2020, the statute and regulation prohibit the use of any federal grant funds from purchasing covered telecommunications equipment or services, discussed further in FEMA Policy #405-143-1 and [Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\) Frequently Asked Questions](#).

As a reminder, in applying for and accepting this award, the recipient certified it will comply with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, including the prohibition on covered telecommunications equipment and services and federal procurement under grant requirements. Additionally, per GPD Information Bulletin No. 426, Section III.B.6 (Nov. 1, 2017), and the Authorized Equipment List, Item #03OE-07-SUAS, licensing, registration fees, insurance and all ongoing operational expenses are the responsibility of the recipient or local units of government and are not allowable under these grant programs.

This approval does not constitute an endorsement of the non-Federal entity's policies and procedures for the use of the sUASs. Any future sUAS equipment requests must be submitted to FEMA for prior approval. Please contact your Preparedness Officer, Hugh McCalla, at (202) 674-1136 or hugh.mcalla@fema.dhs.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



TeNeane P. Bradford, Ph. D.
Acting Director
Office of Grants Administration

Attachments: NRMC – Cybersecurity Best Practices for Operation Commercial Unmanned Aircraft Systems
CISA – Industry Alert – Chinese Manufactured UAS (20 May 2019)
OCIA – Cybersecurity Risks Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Cc: Cathi Sanders, Acting Regional Administrator, Region V
Kerry L. Thomas, Director, Homeland Security Programs Division
Gregory Jones, Grants Division Director, Region V
Alexander R. Mrazik, Jr., Branch Chief, Homeland Security Programs Division
Karen Fitzgerald, Section Chief, Homeland Security Programs Division
Hugh McCalla, Preparedness Officer, Homeland Security Programs Division