



Meeting Name: Town Council Regular Meeting
Meeting Date: November 15, 2023
Prepared By: Chief Brian J. Smith
Item Title: Drone Purchase & Reimbursement

DISCUSSION:

In 2020, the Town purchased the Police Department a drone for emergency use, and to supplement public safety resources during largescale special events taking place in our Town. The cost of this Drone was \$35,000.00.

In 2023, new Legislation passed by the Florida State Legislature prohibited the use of any drones by public safety agencies that comprised Chinese origin technology. As a result, our Department drone was taken out of service. We do not presently have a drone in service with our police department.

During the summer 2023, a reimbursement opportunity became available through the FDLE, by which public safety agencies could receive a pro-rated reimbursement amount for the costs incurred with purchasing drones prior to the new State Legislation went into effect. Based upon the age and condition of our Drone, we were notified we would receive \$31,500.00 back as reimbursement toward the purchase of a new complaint police drone.

We have met with and received a quote from SkyDio Inc, a compliant American based technology drone company and have received a quote for \$31,940.00 for a replacement drone. SkyDio is presently sole-source technology, but also operates via State Contract (SafeWare).

RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to approve the purchase of a new compliant drone from the police capital budget and to transfer funds from the contingency line item to the law enforcement capital budget in the amount of \$31,940.00.