



AGENDA ACTION FORM

Consideration of a Resolution to Purchase a Drone from Skydio for use by the Kingsport Police Department Utilizing a Sourcewell Cooperative Agreement

To: Board of Mayor and Aldermen

From: Chris McCartt, City Manager *CM*

Action Form No.: AF-04-2026

Work Session: January 20, 2026

First Reading: N/A

Final Adoption: January 20, 2026

Staff Work By: Commander Chris Tincher

Presentation By: Chief Jason Bellamy

Strategic Focus Area: 4. Safe & Welcoming Community

Recommendation:

Approve the Resolution

Executive Summary:

If approved, the Kingsport Police Department will purchase a drone from Skydio (in partnership with Axon Enterprises Inc.). The cost of the drone is \$75,000.00 with an updated version being provided at the 2.5-year mark.

Since 2018, the Kingsport Police Department has used drone technology for public safety purposes, including monitoring large events, supporting tactical operations, documenting crime scenes, public relations, and searching for missing people. All officers assigned as drone pilots are licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Kingsport Police Department's current drone is becoming increasingly expensive. Replacement parts are difficult to obtain at a reasonable cost, and the manufacturer has announced that firmware updates will no longer be available after January 2026. Without ongoing firmware support and reliable access to replacement components, the drone's operational reliability is approaching the end of its functional service life. The purchase of the Skydio drone will provide the Kingsport Police Department with compliant drone technology supported for a 5-year term.

This purchase will be made through a Sourcewell Cooperative Agreement (Contract #101223-AXN).

The Funding for this purchase will be split among federally seized monies (Account #126-3021-442.90-06), Drug Fund monies (Account #127-3020-442.90-06), and a portion of operational funds (Account #110-3001-441.90-06).

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Quote from Skydio (in partnership with Axon Enterprises Inc.)

	Y	N	O
Baker	—	—	—
Cooper	—	—	—
Duncan	—	—	—
George	—	—	—
Mayes	—	—	—
Phillips	—	—	—
Montgomery	—	—	—