



# LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

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**Russell E. Hamill, III**  
Chief of Police

811 Fifth Street, Laurel, MD 20707-5103 • Phone: 301-498-0092  
[www.cityoflaurel.org/police](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/police) • [lpd@laurel.md.us](mailto:lpd@laurel.md.us) • Fax: 410-880-0817

June 2, 2026

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Keith R. Sydnor  
President Smith and the Laurel City Council  
FROM: Russell E. Hamill, Chief of Police  
SUBJ: Bid Recommendation for Purchase of Unmanned Aerial System

The Laurel Police Department is requesting permission to sign a five-year contract for the use of two Unmanned Aerial Systems from Skydio with funds allocated in the FY2027 Operating Budget. Skydio is affiliated with Axon and payments and billing will be handled by Axon.

The technology will allow the Laurel Police Department to start its first ever Drone as First Responder (DFR) program. Drones will be housed on city buildings and operated remotely by trained and FAA-certified personnel. The devices will be able to arrive over calls for service before officers arrive, and stream live video to dispatchers, responding officers, and supervisors.

The Skydio drones are fully integrated into our current Axon evidence ecosystem. Footage from the drones is automatically uploaded to Axon's evidence.com website. The Skydio drones can locate an officer's Axon body worn camera and in-car camera.

### Procurement:

In selecting a DFR vendor, LPD Commanders spoke with numerous agencies and performed site visits with the Montgomery County PD's UAS team and the Anne Arundel County PD's UAS team. We obtained quotes from three companies: Skydio, Paladin, and Brinc. Ultimately, LPD selected Skydio because of their Axon integration, their use of US manufactured drones that are not subject to federal import restrictions, and their reputation with area law enforcement for ease of use and robust customer support. The Skydio platform was used on a trial basis during the week of Preakness 151 and exceeded our expectations.

### Bids:

1. Skydio \$89,649.60 annually for five-year contract, US manufactured
2. Brinc \$120,000 annually, free first year, four-year contract,  
US manufactured
3. Paladin \$122,000 first year, \$74,000 annually after, Chinese manufactured



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**Funding:**

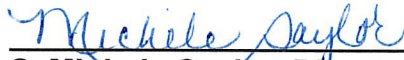
Funding for this purchase is included in the Adopted FY2027 Operating Budget – Department of Information Technology account 52312-Evidence Recording & Collections.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Mayor and City Council approve a five-year contract with Skydio via Axon in the amount of \$89,649.60 annually for each year of the contract.

Should you have any questions or desire further information, please contact me at (301) 498-0092, Extension 1130.

**REVIEWED:**



**S. Michele Saylor, Director**  
**Department of Budget and Personnel Services**



**Date**

Cc: Nekesa Matlock, Acting City Administrator  
Tim Miller, Acting Deputy City Administrator