



COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

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DATE: 07/11/2023

SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A PUBLIC DECLARATION LETTER IN SUPPORT OF CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER/AUTHORIZATION TO THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION FOR USE OF A DRONE BY THE TARRANT COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE FOR FIRE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court approve the submission of a Public Declaration Letter in Support of Certificate of Waiver/Authorization to the Federal Aviation Administration for the Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office to use a drone for fire and law enforcement purposes.

BACKGROUND

The Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office provides full-service law enforcement, fire prevention and investigations, and emergency services to the citizens of unincorporated Tarrant County, and surrounding incorporated municipalities in Tarrant County. The Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office was created by the Tarrant County Commissioners Court pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code Chapter 352, Subchapter B, Section 11 (County Fire Protection - County Fire Marshal - Creation of Office; Term). Tex. Loc. Govt. Code § 352.011.

The drone will be used for fire inspections of large commercial buildings under construction, wildfires, fire investigations and other prevention activities. The drone will also be needed when assisting the Emergency Management Department with damage assessments.

With approval, the Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office will submit the Certificate of Waiver/Authorization letter to start the utilization of a drone for activities such as full-service law enforcement, fire prevention and investigations, and emergency services to the citizens of unincorporated Tarrant County, and surrounding incorporated municipalities located within Tarrant County.

The Criminal District Attorney's Office has reviewed this item as to form.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to Tarrant County at this time. Existing personnel will be utilized to operate the drone program.

An estimated cost of \$8,000.00 to \$9,000.00 will be funded from the special fire code account.

SUBMITTED BY:	Fire Marshal	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Randy Renois Randy Renois
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