

ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA COMMUNICATION FORM

ITEM DATE: June 18, 2019	ITEM TIME: 1:50 PM
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FROM:	David 'Mo' DeMorat, Emergency Operations Director
TODAY'S DATE:	June 11, 2019
AGENDA TITLE:	Consideration to Approve Purchase of Infrared (IR) Capability to be used on Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)

CHECK ONE THAT APPLIES TO YOUR ITEM:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X ACTION ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTION
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION

I. DESCRIBE THE REQUEST OR ISSUE:
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Per the new and recently approved Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Routt County and the Fire Protection District (FPDs), Routt County will provide less reimbursement to FPDs for their wildfire suppression efforts within their respective district boundaries. Funds not spent on reimbursement will be used to build capability (training, exercises, equipment, supplies, personnel, mitigation), as recommended by Emergency Support Function (ESF) 4 – Firefighting – of the All-Hazards Multiagency Coordination (MAC) Group. During a monthly Emergency Operations Department update to the BCC, the BCC indicated that it was not required to wait until the end of the wildland fire season to build capability. Suppression funds could be used during the season to build capability (limited, up to \$10K) if a capability was needed and recommended by ESF 4. The Routt County Emergency Operations Director communicated with each FPD Chief to determine whether an IR capability would be beneficial during the 2019 wildland fire season, and all that responded (four of five) indicated that an IR capability should be pursued.

II. RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve Purchase of Infrared (IR) Capable UAS

III. DESCRIBE FISCAL IMPACTS (VARIATION TO BUDGET):
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PROPOSED REVENUE: Unknown

PROPOSED EXPENDITURE: \$3,500

FUNDING SOURCE: Emergency Management Wildland Fire Budget
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IV. IMPACTS OF A REGIONAL NATURE OR ON OTHER JURISDICTIONS (IDENTIFY ANY COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS ITEM):

Routt County UAS may be deployed in support of wildland fires in other counties, if requested. IR capable UAS, in addition to existing UAS with electro-optical camera, may also be used for other missions, such as in support of structure fires, Search and Rescue missions, hazard assessments (floods, mudslides), building or infrastructure inspections, or law enforcement actions.

V. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The purpose of the new IGA is for the County to spend less on reimbursement and focus more on capability building for all the FPDs. An IR-capable UAS would provide a significant capability to be used on wildland fires to look for hotspots, either ahead of the main fire or within the perimeter during mop-up operations, which would identify areas to be actively engaged before the fire spread, grew, or rekindled once conditions were right.

VI. LEGAL ISSUES:

Routt County Emergency Operations Department has a Statement of Policy Regarding UAS-UAVs, dated Apr 4, 2018.

VII. CONFLICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

Cannot be flown during wildland fire operations utilizing other air resources.

VIII. SUMMARY AND OTHER OPTIONS:

Another option is to purchase just an IR camera for the current RCSO UAS. However, the RCSO UAS is flight time limited (max 15 minutes), is no longer produced so may run into service problems if it malfunctions, and would not be located with the Emergency Operations Director, thereby significantly increasing response times. It is estimated that the cost for this camera would be approximately the same as the IR capable UAS, so the Emergency Operations Director is recommending the additional UAS with IR capability.