



## City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

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**File Number: 2023-1009**

**Agenda Date:** October 19, 2023

**Department:** Gainesville Police Department

**Title: 2023-1009 Financial Assistance Agreement between Florida Department of Law Enforcement and City of Gainesville Police – Police Department for the Drone Replacement Program (B)**

**Department:** Gainesville Police Department

**Description:** : Request for the City Commission to approve a Financial Assistance Agreement with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the City of Gainesville to receive funds via a grant made available by the State of Florida to partially compensate the City for loss incurred by surrendering noncompliant foreign-made drones.

**Fiscal Note:** This grant will reimburse a portion of the \$42,000 spent on November 16, 2022 to purchase three approved drones currently in use by the Gainesville Police Department. The estimated amount to be reimbursed is approximately \$30,000, pending final verification by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement of the drone's condition. According to the grant, the financial assistance can only be used for the purchase of additional approved drones for use by the City of Gainesville Police Department.

**Explanation:** Florida State Statute 934.50 required all Florida public safety agencies to stop using noncompliant foreign-made drones by December 31, 2022. Any new drones need to meet strict security requirements. The City of Gainesville Police Department downed 12 of their non-compliant drones and purchased three compliant drones on November 16, 2022. Nine of the older noncompliant drones qualify for the grant program and they will be turned in to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement upon completion of this agreement by the Gainesville Police Department.

In 2023, the State of Florida acknowledged the trouble many law enforcement departments were having with implementing Florida State Statute 934.50. This statute required the discontinuance of noncompliant drones and required law enforcement agencies to purchase much more expensive approved drones. A \$25 million grant was created and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement was asked to administer the funds due to their relationship with many law enforcement agencies in the state of Florida and their experience with providing grants.

This grant is time sensitive as the funds are available on a first-come first-served basis and many Florida agencies have already participated successfully.

**Strategic Connection:**

- ☐ Goal 1: Equitable Community
- ☒ Goal 2: More Sustainable Community
- ☐ Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- ☐ Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- ☐ Goal 5: “Best in Class” Neighbor Services

**Recommendation:** The City Commission: 1) approve the Financial Assistance Agreement with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for the Drone Replacement Program and 2) authorize the City Manager or their designee to proceed with executing the Financial Assistance Agreement, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality.