



REPORT to the MAYOR and MEMBERS of the CITY COUNCIL  
From the CITY MANAGER

DATE: February 27, 2024

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LA MESA AUTHORIZING  
THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF A GRANT  
FROM THE URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) BY  
APPROVING THE ADDITION OF THE GRANT FUNDS TO  
THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET CONTINGENT  
UPON ACCEPTANCE OF THE GRANT

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: Police

SUMMARY:

Issues:

1. Should the City Council accept the FY21 UASI UAS Grant of \$188,306.90?
2. Should the City Council authorize the City Manager or designee to execute any grant documents and agreements necessary to receive and use these funds?
3. Should the City Council authorize the City Manager or designee to appropriate the FY21 UASI UAS Grant to purchase the six Skydio X10 UAS and other attachments and accessories authorized under the grant?

Recommendation:

1. Adopt the resolution authorizing the acceptance and appropriation of a grant from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) by approving the addition of the grant funds to the FY 2023-2024 Budget contingent upon acceptance of the grant;
2. Authorize the City Manager or designee to execute any grant documents and agreements necessary for the receipt and use of these funds; and

3. Authorize the City Manager or designee to appropriate the FY21 UASI UAS Grant to purchase the six Skydio X10 UAS and other attachments and accessories authorized under the grant within the guidelines of the grant.

Fiscal Impact:

Funds in the amount of \$188,306.90 will be appropriated to the FY 23-24 Budget to Grant Fund 213. There are no matching funds required for the grant.

City's Strategic Goals:

- Maintain a community where residents and visitors feel safe.

BACKGROUND:

The Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Program assists high-threat, high-density Urban Areas in efforts to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. The UASI Program is intended to provide financial assistance to address the unique multi-discipline planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas and to assist these areas in building and sustaining capabilities to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism using the Whole Community approach. The specific award is for purchasing Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), commonly known as drones, to assist with La Mesa's goal of a safe community.

The City of San Diego Office of Homeland Security administers the UASI grant for San Diego County. On November 13, 2023, they issued a UASI grant sub-award for \$239,134 to the City of La Mesa for the purchase of a tethered UAS System. The LMPD has since determined, and the San Diego Office of Homeland Security has agreed, that the untethered fleet of UAS proposed below will better serve the needs of the community at a reduced cost. They are in the process of amending the grant sub-award to reflect this change.

DISCUSSION:

LMPD UAS Unit has been operational since 2020. Over the last three years, LMPD has developed and activated a fully functioning Unmanned Aircraft System Unit.

The development of the Unit started with an intensive UAS research and development program for implementing UAS technology into law enforcement operations that complied with all legal guidelines and FAA regulations. The LMPD UAS Unit has completed and

published a UAS Department Policy and an Operations Manual from this research. The Unit assigned and trained collateral staffing (pilots) who are FAA Part 107 certified, have completed a comprehensive in-house training regime, and continue to train.

The LMPD UAS Unit has a fully developed operations manual, training program, and training file. A joint first responder team of police and fire department personnel also staffs the Unit. The LMPD UAS Unit has acquired and currently operates UAS aircraft and support equipment, but currently does not have any UAS capable of thermal, zoom, or flight times exceeding 20 minutes. This new equipment will offer these capabilities. The LMPD UAS Unit has responded and deployed to numerous incidents over the past few years. To date, the UAS Unit has supported incidents, including evidence collection, high-risk warrant services, tactical operations, special events, crimes in progress, and search and rescue operations.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the resolution authorizing the acceptance and appropriation of a grant from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) by approving the addition of the grant funds to the FY 2023-2024 budget contingent upon acceptance of the grant. Staff further recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager or designee to execute any grant documents and agreements necessary for the receipt and use of these funds. And, staff recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager or designee to appropriate the FY21 UASI UAS Grant to purchase the six Skydio X10 UAS and other attachments and accessories authorized under the grant within the guidelines of the grant.

Reviewed by:



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Greg Humora  
City Manager

Respectfully submitted by:



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Ray Sweeney  
Chief of Police

**Attachments:**

- A. UASI UAS Resolution
- B. Prior Approved FY21 MOU and Standard Agreement
- C. IB 426 Controlled Equipment Rescission 11-1-17
- D. FY21 UASI Award Amendment #2 La Mesa

