

Position Paper for Agenda Item

To: Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

From: Michael Durkin, Director-Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency

Date: 3/9/26

Subject: Emergency Management Performance Grant Award FY2025

Requested Action

Authorize CCEMA to expend funds totaling \$239,971.04 for the purchase of a multi-mission robotic system.

Background and Purpose of Request

CCEMA has been awarded \$239,971.04 in Homeland Security Grant Program Funds (FY23). The County Commissioners previously accepted this award in October of 2024. Per County Policy, the Commissioners must also approve the spending of funds in excess of \$75,000.

The [PackBot 525](#) by Teledyne FLIR is a state -of-the-art unmanned system that is meant to go places people cannot safely go. It is widely used by SWAT teams, HazMat teams and bomb disposals. The HazMat and Bomb disposal mission sets require accessories not being requested here. This unit will be utilized by the CCSO's ESU team to provide reconnaissance and the delivery/retrieval of light objects in dangerous environments.

The 525 model is a 'backpack-portable' unit that includes some features not found in competitors, namely a laser-rangefinder, and HD cameras. The camera quality in particular is crucial for the ESU's mission.

Additionally, this purchase is considered sole source under County Policy as it is a proprietary system that the CCSO already utilizes. The system being purchased can be seamlessly integrated into CCSO's exiting controller and software. To go with a different vendor would require a second operator using a different set of software which would require additional training. This poses an undue operational burden on the CCSO.

Funding Amount and Source

CCEMA has been awarded \$239,971.04 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

There is no match required for these funds.

Effective Date

This award begins 10/1/2024 and ends on 09/30/2027.

Attachments

- Three attached quotes (5 pages total).