

**FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION NO. 25-120**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF DRONES, THE NECESSARY
ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT, AND THE APPLICATION SOFTWARE FROM DSLRPROS
INTELLIGENT DRONE SOLUTIONS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$29,738.00 AND PAID FROM THE DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND #2221 AND THE
EQUITABLE SHARING FUND #2911.**

WHEREAS: The Police Chief is requesting to implement a drone program within the police department; and

WHEREAS: A drone program would be a strategic step forward in investigations, enhancing public safety, and modernizing the department's response capabilities, as well as supplementing the law enforcement operations which will increase the ability to investigate drug crimes and other crimes related to drug activity; and

WHEREAS: The purchase of drones for the Police Department will be used in the furtherance of criminal investigations, search warrants, real-time aerial support and deployment inside the interior of a building or vehicle where there may be an immediate danger to persons or responding officers; and

WHEREAS: The Police Chief is requesting new drones to purchase for the Police Department; and

WHEREAS: The purchase of the drones is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of both Fairfield Township Police Officers and residents; and

WHEREAS: The new drones will be purchased out of the Drug Law Enforcement Fund #2221 and the Equitable Sharing Fund #2911;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of Fairfield Township, Butler County, Ohio, as follows;

SECTION 1: The Board hereby approves the purchase of drones \$15,645.00, accessory equipment \$9,493.00 and software \$4,600.00 for the Police Department from DSLRPros Intelligent Drone Solutions, at a total cost of \$29,738.00, attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and will be paid from the Drug Law Enforcement Fund #2221 and the Equitable Sharing Fund #2911.

SECTION 2. The Board also hereby approves other costs associated with the implementation of the program to be determined on a case-by-case basis which includes the testing process, training, and purchasing some minor equipment to be installed in the vehicles in the amount of \$1,500.00 each.

SECTION 3: The Board hereby dispenses with the requirement that this resolution be read on two separate days, pursuant to RC 504.10, and authorizes the adoption of this resolution upon its first reading.

SECTION 4: This resolution is the subject of the general authority granted to the Board of Trustees through the Ohio Revised Code and not the specific authority granted to the Board of Trustees through the status as a Limited Home Rule Township.

SECTION 5: That it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including §121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 6: This resolution shall take effect at the earliest period allowed by law.

Adopted: September 9, 2025

Board of Trustees

Michael Berding: _____

Shannon Hartkemeyer: _____

Joe McAbee: _____

Vote of Trustees

yes

yes

yes

AUTHENTICATION

This is to certify that this is a resolution which was duly passed, and filed with the Fairfield Township Fiscal Officer this 9th day of Sept, 2025.

ATTEST:

Shelly Schultz

Shelly Schultz, Fairfield Township Fiscal Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Katherine Barbieri

Katherine Barbieri, Township Law Director

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Law Enforcement Drone Unit



Captain Doug Lanier

June 10, 2025

August 18, 2025 (Revised)

June 10, 2025

August 18, 2025 (revised)

TO: Robert Chabali
Chief of Police

FROM: Doug Lanier
Captain/Asst. Chief of Police

**SUBJECT: Implementation of Fairfield Township Police Department Law
Enforcement Drone Program**

Chief Chabali,

I am writing to propose the implementation of a drone program within our police department. As public safety technology continues to evolve, the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS), commonly referred to as drones, has proven to be an invaluable tool in modern law enforcement. This has been under consideration within our agency for quite some time; however, other priorities have paused this project for years. It is the appropriate time for our department to establish a drone program, as it is an indispensable tool being used by law enforcement across the country. A drone program reflects our department's commitment to innovation and the continuous improvement of public safety services for our community.

Benefits and Operational Value:

Our police drone program would be a strategic step forward in investigations, enhancing public safety, and modernizing our response capabilities. This specialized equipment will supplement our law enforcement operations and increase our ability to investigate drug crimes and other crimes related to drug activity, as well as to collect evidence for the prosecution of criminals. Drones provide a range of tactical advantages, including aerial surveillance, search and rescue capabilities, scene documentation, and enhanced situational awareness during investigations and critical incidents. These benefits can significantly enhance officer safety and the overall effectiveness of our department's operations while improving the efficiency of the services we provide.

The drones will be used in the furtherance of criminal investigations, search warrants, real-time aerial support, and deployed inside the interior of a building or vehicle where there may be an immediate danger to persons or responding officers. An increase in officer safety is one of the many expected outcomes of the drone. Other examples are assisting in locating fleeing suspects and missing persons, monitoring public events for criminal activity, search and rescue missions, and crash investigations.

By using drones to gather intelligence in investigations and before officers enter potentially dangerous situations, we can better protect both our personnel and the public. Additionally, the presence of drones at large gatherings and events will serve as a visible deterrent to criminal activity while also offering support in crowd monitoring and traffic management.

Regional Integration and Interagency Cooperation

It is common knowledge that most law enforcement agencies in our region have had active drone programs for years, and we rely on them for support if they are available. On the contrary, there have been times when other departments requested our assistance; however, we did not have the equipment and personnel in place to provide drone support. By establishing our program, we will not only be contemporary in police practices, but we will be better positioned to participate in joint operations and have the personnel and equipment to assist others when called upon. This program will enhance coordination and allow us to contribute meaningfully to broader public safety initiatives.

The West Chester Police Department is currently spearheading a master list of all Butler County agency drone programs. Once our agency implements the program, we will be included on this list and work closely with other agencies. Additionally, we will participate in joint, county-wide training opportunities as well as advanced training with agencies in the region.

Program Implementation

I would serve as the program coordinator as outlined in the FTPD policy (pending final approval). This is a specialized assignment, and additional drone operators will be selected based on interest, police experience, work history, commitment to the program, and ability to complete the challenging testing requirements to become an operator.

All operators will be required to obtain their FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate. This training can be done online from numerous providers for approximately \$150. Once the candidate completes their self-study and thinks that they are ready to take the FAA exam, they will schedule a test date and time at an approved testing site. This proctored FAA exam costs approximately \$175. Once they complete the Part 107 requirements, we will reimburse them up to \$200 for their Part 107 training course and a one-time Part 107 exam fee. FAA Part 107 Operators will also attend drone training, such as the NFPA 2400 sUAS Drone Operator course held at Great Oaks, which is currently \$650.00 per attendee.

The costs associated with launching this program will be covered through the existing drug law enforcement fund and/or the equitable sharing fund. The costs will include law enforcement training, equipment, and applicable operational expenses. The expenditures will follow the

Fairfield Township Police Department's Internal Control Policy, as required by the Ohio Revised Code. I reached out to other Butler County agencies and learned that DSLR Pros is a provider of commercial drones and accessories, and the cost of the equipment is set by the manufacturer.

Drones have various capabilities ranging in size, weight, flight time, accessories, ability to fly in different weather conditions, etc. The following is a summary of the two drones we would initially have in our unit – the Matrice 4T and the Matrice 30T, both being professional and commercial series drones with standard visual and thermal imaging cameras. It is ideal to maintain a minimum of two drones in the unit, and it is good to have an inventory that allows quick deployment and the ability to operate in conditions that the other may not.

The Matrice 4T, despite being limited by weather conditions such as rain (no IP rating) and strong winds, is a great tool that can accomplish most jobs. It is lightweight and more portable than larger, more complex drones, and the remote pilot can deploy it quickly during incidents. It can cover large areas using thermal imaging and assist first responders in locating suspects or missing persons. It can also assist fire personnel with finding hot spots from an aerial perspective.

The Matrice 30T costs more than the Matrice 4T due to its capabilities. In addition to what the Matrice 4T provides, it can be flown in harsher weather conditions and has better quality cameras.

- \$ 9,493 – Matrice 4T
- \$15,645 – Matrice 30T
- **\$25,138 – Total**

An additional cost to this program will be DroneSense, a comprehensive drone management and collaboration platform (application). DroneSense describes their application as a flight control interface that automatically logs necessary flight data (3D) and provides live streaming. This application is being used by most Butler County agencies that have a drone unit. It allows other first responders and command staff to view a live stream of the drone's activity on a monitor. It also offers interagency collaboration by allowing a command post to view multiple drones, even if from several agencies, flying on an incident. This platform is key to drone operations, and as with most technology, there would be an annual renewal.

- **\$ 4,600 – DroneSense**

The costs for the testing process, training, and purchasing some equipment for the police car will be minimal. For instance, a remote drone pilot would need a cost-effective TV monitor, an inverter (charging source), and other small equipment installed in the vehicle. The following costs

are approximate at the time of this report and will be handled on a case-by-case basis as the program progresses.

- \$ 150 – FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate
- \$ 175 – FAA Part 107 FAA Exam
- \$ 650 – NFPA 2400 sUAS Drone Operator course
- \$ 500 – Outfit vehicle with monitor and inverter
- \$ 1,475 – Testing, training, and vehicle equipment (per remote pilot)

The Drug Law Enforcement Fund has \$22,783.68, and the Equitable Sharing Fund has \$16,518.26, for a total of \$39,301.94. This money can only be used for specific law enforcement purposes, and this would be a valuable investment to supplant police operations and investigations. The initial implementation of this program for the two drones and the software application would be \$29,738.

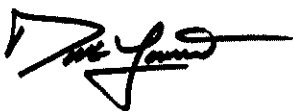
Fund Number	Fund Name	% of Total Pooled	Fund Balance	Investments (Non-Pooled)	Checking & Pooled Investments (Pooled)
2221	Drug Law Enforcement	57.971%	\$22,783.68	\$0.00	\$22,783.68
2911	Equitable Sharing Fund (DEA-Burn)	42.029%	\$16,518.26	\$0.00	\$16,518.26
All Funds Total			\$39,301.94	\$0.00	\$39,301.94

Conclusion

Implementing a drone program is a forward-thinking and cost-effective step that will significantly enhance our department's capabilities. Drones are used almost daily around the county, and it will align us with other law enforcement agencies in the region and the country. Although this technology and police tool have been in use for many years, it will ensure we are not left behind in terms of technological readiness. I respectfully request support and approval to move forward with this program.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

Sincerely,



Doug Lanier
Captain