



# CITY OF SAN MATEO

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## Agenda Report

Agenda Number: 12

Section Name: {{section.name}}

Account Number: 10-5141

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**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Drew Corbett, City Manager  
**PREPARED BY:** Police Department  
**MEETING DATE:** March 20, 2023  
**SUBJECT:**  
Axon Air Unmanned Aerial Systems Program – Amendment

### RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Amendment No. 2 to the master services and purchasing agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc., to provide an unmanned aerial systems program for a five-year term in the amount of \$110,575.95, for a new cumulative agreement total of \$1,676,003.63; and authorize the Chief of Police to execute the amendment in substantially the form presented.

### BACKGROUND:

The San Mateo Police Department has utilized unmanned aerial system (UAS) technology since 2020. Often referred to as a drone, a UAS is an aircraft that is controlled remotely from the ground. UAS are used to provide aerial observation to enhance the efficiency and safety of police operations. The uses include, but are not limited to, scene documentation, area searches for people and/or evidence, disaster response, tactical operations, and critical incident management.

The Police Department currently owns four (4) UAS devices. Drone technology has improved significantly over the last several years, making the use of this equipment an increasingly essential part of law enforcement operations. The Police Department wishes to augment the UAS program and has identified Axon as providing a comprehensive solution. which is the best fit for our agency.

Axon Air is a UAS program built for law enforcement. The system includes automated tracking of pilot, aircraft, flight logs, and live streaming for situational awareness, which increases opportunities for de-escalation. The use of Axon Air will allow for integration with the Police Department's other Axon camera systems. All video evidence recorded will upload to Axon's Evidence.com and can easily be transmitted for discovery purposes. The integration of video storage from body worn cameras, in-car cameras, and UAS provides for a time-efficient and cost-effective solution to data storage.

All UAS operations are conducted by personnel who have received the required training and certification. Flights are approved in advance by the UAS unit commander and pilot, who ensures compliance with Department policy as well as FAA flight restrictions. A top concern with any UAS program is privacy. During flight, the remote pilot takes all steps to ensure the camera is focused on the areas necessary to the mission and refrains from the collection of data concerning uninvolved persons or places. The FAA and the SMPD policy have strict rules and regulations as to when, where, how, and why a UAS operation is permitted. The UAS are not equipped with any weapons.

The San Mateo Police Department currently has a multi-year master services and purchasing agreement (MSPA) with Axon Enterprise, Inc., for body worn cameras, tasers, and a virtual reality training simulation system. The proposed amendment will incorporate a 5-year contract for Axon Air which will consolidate operations of our existing UAS equipment onto one platform as well as add three (3) additional UAS devices, and provide the necessary systems, software licenses, maintenance, hardware, training, and related services for a comprehensive public safety UAS program. Staff proposes

amending the MSPA for a five-year term in the amount of \$110,575.95.

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

The cost of amending the MSPA to provide for the Axon Air amounts to \$48,414.67 in fiscal year 2022-23 and \$15,540.32 each year thereafter. Funding for this cost is available in the Police Department's operating budget.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

This action is not a project subject to CEQA, because it can be seen with certainty that it will not cause a physical change in the environment. (Public Resources Code Section 21065.)

**NOTICE PROVIDED**

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Att 1 - Amendment No. 2

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