



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **ROBERT B. NORRIS**

UNDERSHERIFF **BRETT A. NELSON**

To: Kootenai County Board of Commissioners

From: Lieutenant Mark Ellis

Date: October 20, 2025

Subject: FY2026 Drone purchase

This is a request from the Sheriff's Office Patrol Division to purchase a Sydio X10 drone package. Funding for the drone was approved for the FY2026 budget year.

This drone is American made which complies with the pending December 2025 US Legislation that Chinese made drones will be not purchased in the United States of America. This drone is replacing the previous thermal imaging capable drone which was destroyed in a SWAT call for service and was almost 10 years old. The new drone has the ability to detect thermal heat signatures for searching, high-definition daytime camera, and mapping systems used in car crash investigations and criminal investigation crime scenes. The package also contains the ability to view the drone footage from command posts away from the drone operator.

The purchase price is \$33,891.47 which is a difference of \$4757.47 from the quote received in February. The price difference is believed to be because of the upcoming ban on Chinese Drones creating high demand for the American made drones along with inflation. We request the difference be obtained from general fund balance.

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