



FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
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April 11, 2017

TO: Mayor Teresa Jacobs
-AND-
Board of County Commissioners

THROUGH: Dr. George Ralls M.D., Deputy County Administrator

FROM: Otto Drozd III, Fire Chief
Fire Rescue Department

CONTACT: Mike Wajda, Division Chief - Operations
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SUBJECT: April 25, 2017 – Discussion Agenda Item
Fire Rescue Unmanned Aircraft System Program

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In keeping with advancements in public safety technology, Orange County Fire Rescue is evaluating the implementation of an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) program to enhance the services provided to the citizens of Orange County. UAS programs, commonly known as drones, have proven useful during emergency incidents to evaluate risks and hazards by use of elevated vantage points and thermal imaging. A UAS program would improve Fire Rescue's ability to assess wildfires, search for victims in a variety of incidents, evaluate building fires, map areas involved in Fire Rescue operations, and conduct reconnaissance of hazardous materials releases while reducing the risk to first responders and the general public.

The first step in advancing this concept is to obtain a Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) to operate an Unmanned Aircraft System program – the program cannot be implemented without FAA approval. Additional operational details of the program, including any procurement related topics, will be discussed during the upcoming Budget Work Sessions.

Action Requested: Approval to apply for and obtain a Certificate of Authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to conduct Unmanned Aircraft Systems operations.