



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Department Name:

Fire

Department Number:

031

Agenda Date:

July 14, 2026

Placement:

Administrative Agenda

Estimated Time:

N/A

Continued Item:

No

If Yes, date from:

Vote Required:

4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s): Garrett Huff, Fire Chief/Fire Warden

GH

CONTACT: Patrick Bye, Deputy Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Non-Cash Donation Greater than \$10,000 from The Gary Sinise Foundation, partnered with Amazon.

Concurrences:

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection Department (Fire Department) to accept a non-cash donation from The Gary Sinise Foundation partnered with Amazon for five (5) Thermal Drone devices and associated components for a total of \$49,994.07; and

- b) Approve Budget Revision Request #BJE-0011159(Attachment B); and
- c) Determine that these activities are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15061 (b)(3), since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activities may have a significant effect on the environment.

Summary Text:

The recommended action by the Board of Supervisors to authorize the acceptance of the referenced non-cash donation is in accordance with California Government Code Section 25355, and Policies & Procedures for the Acceptance of Donations and Gifts to the County.

The Fire Department is requesting Board approval to accept a non-cash donation from The Gary Sinise Foundation, in partnership with Amazon, for five (5) Thermal Drone devices and associated components, totaling \$49,994.07. This donation will replace ageing, limited-capacity units and expand our ability to support field personnel with efficient, accurate emergency scene information.

Background:

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department has been increasingly utilizing unmanned aerial systems (UAS) to expand our service delivery and efficiency. UAS serves as a safe and efficient force multiplier, quickly and accurately directing appropriate resources, increasing situational awareness, and even making direct interventions. The department currently has several licensed UAS pilots and operates a limited fleet of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). This donation will add five UAV's as well as support equipment.

County Fire deploys UAS to search for victims during water and remote rescue incidents. The thermal camera on the UAV is also used for heat detection in fires nearing control status, to better direct firefighter efforts and help ensure incident mitigation. The improved technology in these units will help to enhance public service delivery.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No. The Fire Department will assume responsibility for any ongoing costs associated with the continued use and maintenance of the Thermal Drone Devices. There will be no impact on the General Fund.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2026-2027	Total
Donation & Grant	\$49,994.07	\$49,994.07
Total	\$49,994.07	\$49,994.04

Attachments:

Attachment A - SBCFIRE_Invoice_D710_Updated GS Foundation

Attachment B - Budget Revision Request #BJE-0011195

Contact Information:

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Fire Deputy Chief

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