

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-231

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Potential Cost	87,954	87,954
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Potential Cost	34,219	34,219
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Various Municipal and Volunteer Fire Departments	Potential Savings	See Below	See Below
Various Municipal Police Departments	Potential Savings	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill, which requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to administer a grant program for law enforcement units and fire departments to buy unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), results in a potential cost to the state of at least \$122,173 and potential savings to various municipal police departments and

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.25% of payroll in FY 25.

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various fire departments in FY 25 and FY 26. The potential cost is contingent upon funding being made available for the grant program.²

Depending on the requirements of the program, the complexity of the applications, and the number of applications received, DESPP may need to hire one emergency management program specialist, resulting in a potential cost to DESPP of \$87,954 for salary and other expenses and a potential cost to the Office of the State Comptroller of \$34,219 for fringe benefits in FY 25 and FY 26.

The cost of UAVs used by first responders varies widely and depend on the capabilities required and the UAV manufacturer. Such UAVs cost approximately \$10,000 each but may range in price from \$5,000 to over \$50,000. There may also be additional training, software, and equipment expenses that are incidental to purchasing a UAV. There are over 400 organizations in the state eligible to receive grants under this program.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to funding being made available for the grant program and employee wage increases.

²The bill does not allocate funds from any source. Historically, DESPP has received funds for similar programs from a variety of sources including appropriations, bond authorizations, and federal funds (including ARPA). If DESPP receives state funding, it is assumed to be a general fund appropriation or bond authorization.