CITY OF FAIRBORN
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
July 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
Fire Training Room

COUNCIL MEMBERS	Present	Absent
Dan Kirkpatrick, Mayor	☐	☒
Clint Allen, Councilman	☒	☐
Sylvia Chess, Councilwoman	☒	☐
Brian Dodd, Councilman	☒	☐
Rodney McCubbins, Deputy Mayor	☒	☐
Mary Reaster, Councilwoman	☒	☐
Tana Stanton, Councilwoman	☒	☐

Councilwoman Chess made a motion to excuse Mayor Kirkpatrick from the meeting. Councilwoman Reaster seconded. Yeas, six: Chess, Reaster, Allen, Dodd, Stanton, and McCubbins. Nays, none. Deputy Mayor McCubbins excused Mayor Kirkpatrick from the meeting.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Adkins, Barker, Gebhart, McClure, McDowell, McNamee, Schell, and Taylor.

DRONE AS FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM

Ben Roman, Police Chief, discussed the Brinc Drone as First Responder Program by reviewing the attached Power Point presentation labeled Exhibit "A." He highlighted the following information:

- Description of the Program
- How it works
- Types of Response Calls
- Drone Highlights
- Benefits
- Concerns
- Implementation – 6 Months prior
- Implementation – 1 – 2 Months prior
- Implementation – 2 Weeks prior
- Implementation Week
- Program Costs – free for first year, $59,999 annually for years 2, 3 and 4.

Chief Roman mentioned that Huber Heights is currently using this program and he has viewed the actual system. Englewood is also in discussion with Brinc for the program. This technology is becoming more prevalent. This Brinc system integrates with the existing body cam and in-car camera for storage of all information from the drone.

Councilwoman Reaster asked if they have mobile charging stations? Chief Roman stated they are not mobile, but they would utilize extra batteries.

Councilman Dodd asked who would actually be flying the drone, our personnel? Chief Roman explained that currently the department has several employees who are certified to operate drones. They would be the first ones to fly it. In the future he would like to have all the dispatchers or a portion of the dispatchers trained so there is capability 24 hours a day 7 days a week would be his goal. Currently, they have about six or so drone operators. Councilman Dodd asked do they have their own equipment? Chief Roman explained it is web based, as long as they have access, they can log in. There needs to be more than one screen. You want to be able to see the call for service and see the drone flight and camera view on another screen. It is robust the equipment that it takes. Dispatch is the best location for the use of this program.

Councilman Dodd asked if IT approves of the new web-based program. Chief Roman spoke with Jon Petty about a month ago. He also spoke to Chris Barker, Manuel Jacobs, and Engineering about the program. Fairborn is unique with its close proximity to the Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Staff has checked with Brinc, and they work with airports that put out hundreds of flights a day without incident. Fairborn of course would work with Wright Patterson and the FAA.

Councilwoman Reaster asked if there is a possibility of whitewashing an IP address, so it is just the Police and Fire Department that have access. Chief Roman explained there would only be certain people that would have user capability and user login to fly the drone. Chief Roman discussed the drone presentation that was made at a Huber Heights school where the drone was used within a certain drawn boundary.

Chief Roman explained they went for a supplemental appropriation of $10,000 a couple of weeks ago that if this should be approved it would cover the cost of electric being run to the roof, the ethernet, crane if they need to, brackets for the antenna to be mounted and so forth. He explained that Huber Heights has two drones in place and they budgeted $10,000 and put two in place.

Chief Roman explained that a cancellation in the first year would have to occur 30 days prior to them making the first payment toward the second year. They have a one-year free trial.

Deputy Mayor McCubbins asked if that included user support. Chief Roman replied, yes, it includes user support and if a drone were to crash it would also replace one drone without charge.

Councilman Dodd asked if the Fire Department also has operators. Chief Roman responded they do have operators as well. Councilman Dodd stated the two department would work in tandem together then that first year. Chief Roman stated they would have to look at it to see how they can make it work. Brad Eckert, Assistant Fire Chief, discussed the existing thermal drone that they have in use. They got into it two or three years ago when the Fire Service was looking at drones. They thought they were going to be on the forefront of it, and honestly two or three years later they have 4 certified pilots through the FAA, and they barely use it. The one time they did use it they caught a bad guy for the Police Department. The reason the Fire Department's current program does not work is because they do not have enough people. When they get on a fire it is chaotic and usually there are all different kinds of assignments and by the time you think about it the fire is out and the drone is not even used. Same goes with auto accidents as patient care is number one. The present Fire Department drone is a thermal drone. It is the Fire Department version of a civilian drone. They paid way too much for it because it was a public safety drone, but they still use it. It is on the BC truck, and they would still use the thermal drone if they got the Brinc drone. Weather will affect any type of drone usage. Inclement weather will keep a drone from the air, no different than Care Flight. The drone would fly under the same rules as Care Flight. That is not to say, light rain, but in the case of a thunderstorm, snow, or ice it would not be able to fly. The other disadvantage of the current drone is they are limited to line of sight versus

where it automatically goes. It is not even a thought. It is there. The other cool thing about it is all of the medics, engines, ladders, and Chief's vehicles have TV screens with all the CAD stuff in them while this will automatically show up on that. They will know what they are looking at before they even arrive on the call. This is light years ahead of where they are now.

Mr. Eckert explained this drone would be very beneficial along the Momba Trail in Bath Township if they would have someone lost or hurt on the trail. They would use the new drone for structure fires. The incident commander could be looking at his screen with all of his resources and then over here be looking at an overview of the entire fire scene. The other part of that is they do after-action reviews. After every fire they go back through and review what they could have done better. This drone would be very beneficial in a missing person search. It also has a loudspeaker that works out very well. The drone could also be used on a hazmat incident. It could be used in an active-shooter incident as well. It would limit putting our firefighters in the water for body rescues when they could just use a drone to search for it. He discussed the rigorous 107 certification process. The final test is administered at one of the airports. It is required if you are Public Safety or if you are going to use your drone for any kind of money. For instance, if you are going to use it for real estate you have to take the 107-certification test. Class A is airliner and Class B is where we are. You have to be able to read aeronautical maps also. He sees a lot of potential with this drone.

Councilman Allen stated he did get a little bit of a head start on this last week at the Police Advisory Council. He is glad to hear that there is a certification needed when it comes to drones and having that capability to fly beyond line of sight. Also, the airspace deconfliction. He asked if Brinc would assist in helping us develop operating procedures, so we are ready a year out. Chief Roman explained the Huber Heights and Englewood departments can provide information on that as well.

Councilman Allen hopes they can get a good sampling in that free year to determine if this is a useful tool for us. He believes this could save a life and protect a life. Being able to get eyes on the scene as quickly as possible so that officer is equipped with all the information they need.

Deputy Mayor McCubbins asked if Council had any other comments or questions as they were running close on time. Mike Gebhart, City Manager, stated he could hold up on his stuff to keep answering questions.

Councilwoman Stanton asked on an active shooter incident can the drone go inside a building. Chief Roman stated this one would not be able to go inside a building. She heard Bath Township a lot, is there a possibility of cost sharing. Mr. Gebhart stated he believed it would be put into the capital budget each year. He stated it could be something that is discussed at the joint meeting on the 27th at Bath Township. He will get an answer on that. Mr. Eckert stated the experience they would get in taking it out there and using it would far outweigh any kind of money we are going to get from it. The Momba trail is a nightmare. If they can figure Momba out with this drone and anything in this town is going to be a piece of cake. Councilwoman Stanton asked if the preliminary work could be used for another drone if the Brinc system did not work out. Chief Roman stated there are other vendors. It could be possible, but he is not sure. Mr. Gebhart stated they would come back to Council at that time to let them know what direction they are going in. Mike Gebhart, City Manager, discussed several scenarios where the drone would be beneficial.

Councilwoman Chess thinks the drone would be beneficial for accountability and training purposes. She asked if they have received any concern from the citizens about privacy with the current drones. Chief Roman does not believe they have.

Councilman Dodd encouraged a public education opportunity about the drone usage. Mr. Gebhart stated there would be a push of information sent out. We can use this for 365 days free of charge. He thinks if we can save a life, it is worth it.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mike Gebhart, City Manager, stated he wanted to go over the standardized MOU. He sent it to all of Council and the first example is the FEAB. He will set up a time where he can get input form each of the Council members as he would like to start to standardize those. FEAB is the first group to do that with. Cherise is actively talking with the FDC and Fairborn TNR so they can get that done. He wants a standardized agreement so everyone is treated fairly and equally and then they can tweak it a little bit. He asked them to look at the draft of the standardized MOU and the FEAB MOU that he sent out. Councilman Dodd mentioned that he read those documents and they look good to him.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council had no further comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Reaster moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Stanton seconded. Yeas, six: Reaster, Stanton, Allen, Chess, Dodd, and McCubbins. Nays, none. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

MAYOR

CLERK, CITY OF FAIRBORN

Exhibit "A"


Work Session- July 06, 2026
BRINC Drone as First Responder Program
FAIRBORN
A CITY IN MOTION

BRINC Drone as First Responder

What is a Drone as First Responder Program?

- Drone station at a fixed location (police department roof)
- Drone is dispatched from the fixed location to the scene
- Software converts the provided address to GPS coordinates
- Drone operation by remote pilots (Beyond Visual Line of Sight)
- Drone as First Responder | BRINC
- BRINC Drones – A New Era of Response - YouTube

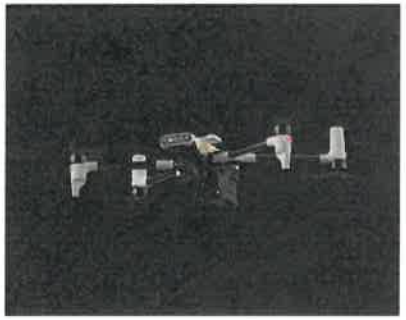


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BRINC Drone as First Responder

How does it work?

- 911 call or nonemergency call received in our dispatch center.
- Drone is dispatched from the fixed location (PD roof) to the scene using onboard navigation systems.
- Program software converts the address to GPS coordinates.
- Drone operation by remote pilots (Beyond Visual Line of Sight) while utilizing Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast, Real-Time Kinematic GPS, Visual Inertial Odometry, and obstacle avoidance sensors.
- After the call for service is complete, the drone will autonomously return to the station.



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BRINC Drone as First Responder

What type of calls will it respond too?

- Crimes in progress
- Traffic collisions
- Missing persons
- Search and rescue
- Fire incidents and structure assessments
- Hazardous materials responses
- Natural disasters



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BRINC Drone as First Responder

BRINC Responder Drone Highlights

- Camera provides a live video feed (40x Zoom & 640px Thermal Camera)
- Integrated loudspeaker w/ two-way communication
- Emergency payload dropper
- Flight speed up to 37 mph
- 42-minute flight time
- Charging ability from10% to 90% in 25 minutes
- Certified parachute recovery system
- Emergency lights and siren
- Custom agency markings



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BRINC Drone as First Responder

Benefits of a Drone as First Responder Program

- Quicker response times
- Better informed decisions
- Improved allocation of resources
- Improved safety for residents and first responders



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BRINC Drone as First Responder

Concerns regarding a Drone as First Responder Program

- Surveillance- Flight are tied to specific calls for service, no random patrol or surveillance.
- Camera Footage Access- Accessed restricted and uploaded like BWC footage
- Transparency- Public transparency dashboard documenting flight logs, call type, flight path, and program statistics.
- Crash- The drone will be operated by trained personnel following FAA requirements and department procedures. In addition, multiple and redundant systems are in place to prevent a crash, such as Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast, Visual-Inertial Odometry, and Real-Time Kinematic GPS.



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BRINC Drone as First Responder



Implementation

6 Months Prior:

- Onboarding & Planning
- Waiver Support
- Integration Planning
- Equipment Customization
- On-Site Survey
- Launch Sites & Infrastructure Location Confirmation
- Customer Commences Infrastructure (Power / Internet / Mounting Hardware)

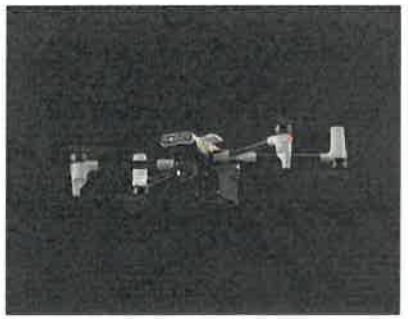
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BRINC Drone as First Responder

Implementation

1-2 Months Prior:

- Crane or Tower Climber Coordination (if applicable)
- Static IP Address Assignment confirmation from Agency I.T.
- BRINC Manufacturing & Configuration



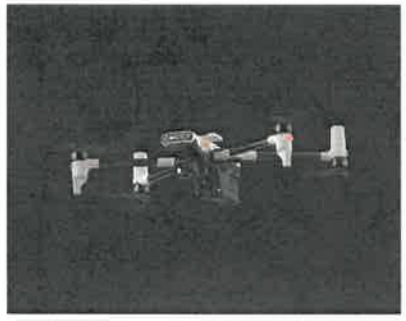
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BRINC Drone as First Responder

Implementation

2 Weeks Prior:

- Customer Has Completed Infrastructure
- Customer Validates Internet Connectivity
- Equipment Shipment & Delivery



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BRINC Drone as First Responder

Implementation

Installation Week:

- Monday: Install Team Travels to City, Performs Equipment Check
- Tuesday: Hardware Installation (1 day per site on average)
- Wednesday – Thursday: Installation, Testing & Flight Validation
- Friday: Install Team Travels Out



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BRINC Drone as First Responder

Program Cost

Implementation budget: $10,000
Year 1 Cost: $0.00
Customer may terminate the BRINC Subscription without penalty by giving 30-day notice to Motorola up to 30 days prior to commencement of the first renewal year.
Year 2 Cost: $59,999
Year 3 Cost: $59,999
Year 4 Cost: $59,999



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BRINC Drone as First Responder

Question?

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