



APPLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Appleton Police Department
222 South Walnut Street
Appleton, WI 54911
Phone: 920.832.5500
Fax: 920.832.5553
police.appletonwi.gov

TO: Safety and Licensing Committee

From: Captain Gary Lewis and Lieutenant Blaine Vander Wielen

Subject: Sole Source Request – Axon Air/DroneSense

The Appleton Police Department (APD) Technology Unit operates a range of small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS) to enhance public safety and officer protection. To achieve the department's objectives while adhering to Federal Aviation Administration regulations, a specialized set of programs is necessary.

Beginning in August 2024, APD initiated a trial of Axon Air/DroneSense. This company provides a comprehensive program tailored for first responder agencies, focusing on the management and operation of sUAS programs. Axon has partnered with DroneSense to enable seamless integration of sUAS with other Axon products, branded as Axon Air. As an agency utilizing various Axon products, this integration is unparalleled.

Axon Air/DroneSense offers a range of features, including the ability to operate various sUAS both in-person and remotely, live streaming footage to officers and stakeholders, providing an operational map view of devices in use, ensuring deconfliction with manned aircraft, logging all flights for future reference, creating custom training programs, establishing a maintenance schedule, and managing equipment use and operator proficiency. While other programs may offer some of these features, Axon Air/DroneSense is the only comprehensive suite that encompasses all the essential functionalities for first responders, while also being compatible with our agency's existing products.

I have not identified any comparable programs to seek alternative quotes. Therefore, I am submitting this memorandum to request that the Axon Air/DroneSense quote be considered a sole source request, given the program's unique aspects and its design continuity with current Axon products.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Captain Gary Lewis

Lt. Blaine Vander Wielen