

**FDLE Office of Criminal Justice Grants
Drone Replacement Program
FAQs
(revised 08.10.2023)**

1. How do I apply for funding?

Florida Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) may apply for the program by submitting an executed "Drone Replacement Program Financial Assistance Agreement". This agreement must be signed by the LEA Chief Official (Sheriff, Chief of Police, etc.) to be considered valid.

2. We received donated drones. Are we eligible for this program?

No. This program is a buy-back style program based on the initial purchase price of the noncompliant drone. If the items were donated (\$0.00), there is no purchase price and/or documentation to base the value on.

3. We do not have a drone to relinquish. Are we eligible for this program?

No. This program is a buy-back style program requiring participating agencies to relinquish the noncompliant drone to FDLE.

4. How do we know if our drone is at its end-of-life?

If you were intending to replace the drone in your fleet PRIOR to the new requirements for governmental drone use in 2021-22, it is likely end of life.

5. Where do I send my noncompliant drone?

FDLE is accepting drones at two locations – Tallahassee and Tampa. Recipients are responsible for contacting the Point-of-Contact from either region below and scheduling an appointment to drop off the noncompliant drones **in person**.

Appointments may be scheduled Tuesdays (9:00AM – 5:00PM EST) and Thursdays (1:00PM – 5:00PM EST).

Tallahassee (TROC) 2331 Phillips Road Tallahassee, FL 32308	Tampa (TBROC) 4211 North Lois Avenue Tampa, FL 33614
<u>Point of Contact (POC)</u> Robert Lyons 850-410-7419 RobertLyons@fdle.state.fl.us	<u>Point of Contact (POC)</u> Corey Monaghan 813-878-7887 CoreyMonaghan@fdle.state.fl.us
<u>Alternate POC</u> Luke Johnson LukeJohnson@fdle.state.fl.us	<u>Alternate POC</u> Richard Kaplan RichardKaplan@fdle.state.fl.us

6. Can I mail my drone in lieu of in-person drop off?

No. FDLE cannot accept relinquished drones via post-mail.

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7. What documentation is required to relinquish my drone(s)?

LEAs must prepare a “Drone Certification Form” to be provided to the FDLE POC when relinquishing the drone(s). This form serves as an attestation of flight hours and provides details regarding the specific drone(s) relinquished. This form must be signed by the LEA Chief Official (Sheriff, Chief of Police, etc.) to be considered valid.

8. The entire Drone ID will not fit in the appropriate location on the Certification Form. How should I proceed?

Drone IDs can be long serial numbers. If the entire number will not fit in the space provided please enter the last 10 digits.

9. What drone components ARE required to be relinquished with each drone?

The University of South Florida has requested all drones be accompanied by the following:

- Battery (one per drone)
- Controller
- Manuals detailing the make/model/year etc. (if available)
- Charger (unless it is universal for other drones)

10. We have additional lithium batteries. How are we supposed to dispose of them?

FDLE recommends using <https://search.earth911.com/> to search for hazardous waste disposal options in your area.

11. The program is first-come, first serve. I cannot drop everything and deliver my drone to one of the in-person locations immediately. What are my options to ensure my agency receives funding under this program?

FDLE’s Grant Manager will earmark funds for any agency who provides the executed agreement and the properly executed (signed by chief official) drone certification form. However, reimbursements will not be made until the Grant Manager receives the executed form signed by the FDLE POC indicating the drone has been relinquished and all documentation required for the compliant drone purchase as identified in the Recipient’s Responsibilities section of the agreement.

12. Can I partner with another law enforcement agency to coordinate the delivery of my noncompliant drone to one of the FDLE locations?

As long as the Drone Certification Form is completed and signed by the Chief Official of your agency, an agency representative does not have to be present to relinquish the drone(s).

13. The amount of the reimbursement is based on drone flight hours. What are we required to do for proof of hours?

FDLE is utilizing a signed certification from the LEA’s Chief Official as an attestation of the hours on each drone. FDLE strongly encourages each LEA to check if there is a way to verify flight hours on the settings of the drone(s) they are relinquishing.

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14. Does the reimbursement amount include all accessories that were purchased for the noncompliant drone if we provide that documentation when we relinquish the drone(s)?

Yes, as long as they are drone-specific. Any accessories included in the valuation process must be relinquished with the drone.

15. My agency purchased a drone back when we were required to shelf them. Are we eligible to apply for this funding and recoup the costs of the new compliant drone?

FDLE understands some agencies may have quickly replaced their drone fleet. As such, FDLE will allow funds received for the relinquished drone to off-set the purchase of the new drone(s) provided the following conditions are met:

- The purchase occurred after January 1, 2022; and
- the new drone is compliant with all provisions of Rule 60GG-2.0075, Florida Administrative Code.

The LEA will need to complete the "Reimbursement Request (Option 1)" form, and provide all required documentation, to the FDLE Grant Manager to receive the payment.

16. My agency does not have the budget authority to go out and purchase a new, compliant drone. What options are available for us to participate in this program?

FDLE understands some agencies may not have the budget authority to replace the noncompliant drones. FDLE will allow agencies to request a cash advance for their funding; however, in order to approve the release of advance funds, the LEA must provide to the FDLE Grant Manager the following documentation: (1) a completed Cash Advance Request (Option 2) form, (2) a valid, executed PO, and (3) a current quote for the new drone to be purchased. Advanced funds must be spent on the compliant drone within 30 days of receipt. The LEA must provide the invoice and proof of payment within 45 days or the advanced funds must be refunded to FDLE.

17. Can the funds provided under this program be used to purchase additional accessories for the new drone?

Yes. Funds provided under this program can be used to purchase accessories for the compliant drone.