

# Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 06/09/26

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 26-0447

LOG NAME: 55D-FEND SOLUTIONS AD INC

## **SUBJECT**

(ALL) Authorize Execution of an Agreement with D-Fend Solutions AD Inc. for Drone Detection Equipment, Software, and Training in an Amount Up to \$600,000.00 for the Aviation Department with Four (4) One-Year Renewal Options, Adopt Appropriation Ordinance Increasing Estimated Receipts and Appropriations in the Municipal Airport Fund by an Amount Up to \$600,000.00, from Available Net Position, for a Transfer to Capital, Adopt Appropriation Ordinance Increasing Estimated Receipts and Appropriations in the Municipal Airport Capital Projects Fund by an Amount Up to \$600,000.00, from Transferred Funds, for a Programmable Project for Fort Worth Meacham International Airport, and Amend Fiscal Year 2026 Adopted Budget and Fiscal Years 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize execution of an agreement with D-Fend Solutions AD Inc. for drone detection equipment and software in an amount up to \$600,000.00 for the Aviation Department with four (4) one-year renewal options;
2. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Municipal Airport Fund in an amount up to \$600,000.00, from available net position, for the purpose of transferring to the Municipal Airport Capital Projects Fund;
3. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Municipal Airport Capital Projects Fund in an amount up to \$600,000.00, transferred from the Municipal Airport Fund, for the purpose of funding the Meacham Equipment - Vehicles programmable project (City Project No. P00011); and
4. Amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Adopted Budget and Fiscal Years 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program.

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## **DISCUSSION:**

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize execution of a Purchase and Service Agreement with D-Fend Solutions AD Inc. to provide drone detection equipment, software and training for the Aviation Department in an amount up to \$600,000.00, and to appropriate an amount up to \$600,000.00 in the Municipal Airport Capital Projects Fund for the Meacham Equipment – Vehicles programmable project (Project) at Fort Worth Meacham International Airport (Airport). Funding moved in the amount up to \$600,000.00 from available net position within the Municipal Airport Capital Projects Fund is to be used for initial implementation of the service agreement with D-Fend Solutions AD Inc.

The Aviation Department maintains safe and secure operations at the City of Fort Worth's (City) airport system, which includes Perot Field Fort Worth Alliance Airport, Fort Worth Meacham International Airport, and Fort Worth Spinks Airport. The growing use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly known as drones, presents potential risks to airport operations, including interference with aircraft, restricted airspace violations, and threats to critical aviation infrastructure.

To address these risks, the Aviation Department proposes deployment of the EnforceAir2 system provided by D-Fend Solutions AD LTD. This counter-UAS technology enables authorized airport personnel to detect, identify, and track unauthorized drone activity in real time, improving situational awareness and allowing personnel to respond quickly to potential threats.

The EnforceAir2 system utilizes a non-kinetic, non-disruptive RF-cyber approach. When legally authorized, operators can safely assume control of a threatening drone and guide it to a controlled landing zone without interfering with surrounding communications, navigation systems, or nearby businesses and neighborhoods.

Perot Field Alliance Airport and Fort Worth Meacham International Airport are certificated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) under 14 CFR Part 139, which requires airports to maintain strict safety standards and develop an Airport Emergency Plan (AEP) under 14 CFR Part 139.325 and FAA Advisory Circular 150/5200-31C. Spinks Airport, while not certificated under Part 139, supports corporate aviation operations and maintains safety and emergency response procedures to protect aviation operations and infrastructure.

In September 2021, the FAA issued updated guidance requiring airports to include procedures in their Airport Emergency Plans for responding to unauthorized drones. While drone detection systems are not specifically required, they are a valuable tool for identifying and responding to unauthorized drone activity and supporting safe airport operations.

Implementation of the EnforceAir2 system will enhance the City's ability to detect unauthorized drone activity, improve situational awareness for airport operations and security personnel, and strengthen protection of critical aviation assets across the City's airport system.

**FUNDING:** The maximum amount allowed under this agreement for the initial term is \$600,000.00. For each renewal term, the maximum annual amount is \$400,000.00; however, the actual amount used will be based on the needs of the department and available budget. Funding is available for appropriation within the net position of the Municipal Airport Fund. The current balance is \$13,255,476.68 and after this M&C the new balance will be \$12,655,476.68.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE ORDERS: An administrative change order or increase may be made by the City Manager up to the amount allowed by relevant law and the Fort Worth City Code and does not require specific City Council approval.

TERM: The initial term of the agreement will begin upon execution and end one year from the date.

RENEWAL TERMS: This Agreement may be renewed at the City's option for up to four additional, one-year renewal options in an amount up to \$400,000 annually for maintenance, upgrades and spare parts. This action does not require City Council approval, provided that the City Council has appropriated sufficient funds to satisfy the City's obligations during the renewal terms.

CHAPTER 252 EXEMPTION: This agreement was approved as exempt from competitive bidding requirements under Chapter 252 of the Texas Local Government Code as a purchase necessary to preserve or protect the public health and safety, as determined by the Fort Worth City Attorney's Office.

This agreement will serve ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

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**FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:**

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are currently available from net position within the Municipal Airport Fund and upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the Municipal Airport Capital Proj Fund for the Meacham Equipment - Vehicles programmable project as appropriated. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Aviation Department has the responsibility of verifying the availability of funds.

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