

Military Enhancement Fund Grant Award Letter



March 27, 2026

Justin Pierce
Charleston County Emergency Management Director
8500 Palmetto Commerce Parkway
North Charleston, SC 29456

Re: Award of Military Enhancement Plan Grant

Dear Mr. Pierce,

The South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs (SCDVA) is pleased to inform you that a Military Enhancement Fund Grant has been approved in the amount of \$1,970,440 for the USAF – Compliant Drone Program.

This letter and the attached Agreement contain the terms and conditions of accepting our Grant. Please read the Agreement carefully, sign, and return no later than April 30, 2026. After we receive your signed Agreement, SCDVA will disburse your Grant funds via SCEIS. Please contact SCDVA if you require assistance in registering as a vendor in SCEIS.

The Grant funds must be used specifically for the USAF – Compliant Drone Program. You may submit a written request to change the scope of the Grant as described in the Agreement. Unexpended funds must be returned to the Military Enhancement Fund. You must file the attached Quarterly Accounting Report with SCDVA until all Grant funds are exhausted. If you delegate any requirements to a subawardee, you remain responsible for assuring they are completed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sandy Claypoole at 803-683-1361 or sandy.claypoole@scdva.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

Todd B. McCaffrey
Major General, U.S. Army (Ret)
Secretary, South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs

Military Enhancement Fund Grant Award Agreement



This Grant Award Agreement (Agreement) is made and entered into as of **March 27, 2026**, by and between the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs (SCDVA) and **Charleston County Emergency Management (County)**.

1. Grant Amount

SCDVA agrees to grant to the County and the County agrees to accept from SCDVA a grant in the amount of **\$1,970,440** from the Military Enhancement Fund.

2. Purpose of Grant

The purpose of this Grant is for the **USAF – Compliant Drone Program**.

3. Disbursement of Grant Funds

SCDVA will disburse the total funds of **\$1,970,440** to the County via SCEIS following the signing of this agreement.

4. Use of Grant Funds

The County shall use the Grant funds solely for the purpose of the **USAF – Compliant Drone Program**. The County shall not use the Grant funds for any other purpose. If the funds are disbursed to a subawardee, the County remains responsible for ensuring the funds are used for **USAF – Compliant Drone Program**. Failure to do so may result in recoupment of the grant amount, disqualification from future Grant applications, or both.

5. Reporting Requirements

The County shall submit to SCDVA quarterly progress reports on the designated Quarterly Accounting Form. The County shall submit the Quarterly Accounting Form until such time as the Grant funds are exhausted. If the funds are disbursed to a subawardee, the County remains responsible for ensuring the Quarterly Accounting Form is submitted. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from future Grant applications.

6. Audit and Inspection Requirements

The County shall allow SCDVA, the State Auditor's Office, or any designee to audit the use of the Grant funds at any time until the Grant funds are exhausted and for a period of three years thereafter. If the funds are disbursed to a subawardee, the County remains responsible for ensuring the records are maintained. The County shall also allow SCDVA or its designee to conduct inspections of the project.

7. Grant Amendment

Awards may be amended in scope. The County must return unexpended funds resulting from any amendment to SCDVA. SCDVA will not approve increases to the Grant amount.

8. Unexpended Funds

Any unexpended Grant funds remaining after the **USAF – Compliant Drone Program** shall be returned to the Military Enhancement Fund. If the funds are disbursed to a subawardee, the County remains responsible for the return of unexpended funds.

9. Delegation

If Grant funds are passed through to a subawardee, you remain responsible for assuring requirements in this Agreement are met.

10. Termination

SCDVA may terminate this Grant and request the return of unspent funds if the County fails to comply with any of the terms of this Agreement, or funds are not used in the timely manner stated in the proposal.

11. Publicity

The County may publicize the Grant in recognition of Military Enhancement Fund support. SCDVA and the County may each disclose the other party's name and the amount of the Grant in internal and external communications. Neither party may use any other public communications related to the Grant without the prior written consent of the other party.

12. Governing Law

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of South Carolina.

13. Scope of Agreement

This agreement governs only the award of the Grant under the Military Enhancement Fund. This agreement does not govern any other relationships between SCDVA and the County.

14. Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior agreements, representations, and understandings between the parties, whether written or oral.

15. Severability

If any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable, such provision shall be struck from this Agreement and the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

16. Waiver

No waiver of any provision of this Agreement shall be effective unless in writing and signed by both parties.

17. Notices

All notices and other communications under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be delivered via email. If to SCDVA: Sandy Claypoole sandy.claypoole@scdva.sc.gov

If to the County: [Name] Brandi Griffith

[Email Address] bgriffith@charlestoncounty.org

or to such other email address as either party may designate in writing from time to time.

18. Headings

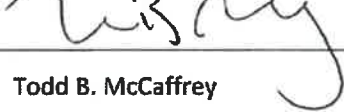
The headings in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall not affect its interpretation.

19. Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

For SCDVA:

Signature 
Printed Name: Todd B. McCaffrey

Title: Secretary, South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs

For the County:

Signature 
Printed Name Bill Tuten

Title County Administrator

1. Cover Letter

Justin Pierce
Charleston County Emergency Management Director



843.746-3800
Fax: 843.746-3810
JPierce@charlestoncounty.org
Emergency Services Building
8500 Palmetto Commerce Parkway
North Charleston, SC 29456

February 24, 2026

South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 305
Columbia, SC 29204

RE: South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs (SCDVA) Military Enhancement Plan Grant Proposal - USAF-Compliant Drone Program

We are pleased to submit Charleston County's application, in partnership with Joint Base Charleston, for the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs Military Enhancement Fund Grant. This initiative represents a strategic investment in enhancing airspace safety, security, and innovation within the JB CHS airspace and surrounding communities through improved airspace awareness, coordinated drone operations, and strengthened multi-jurisdictional response capabilities.

The proposed \$1,970,440 program will establish the foundation for the County's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program supporting emergency management, first response, search and rescue, inspection, disaster recovery, and land and water management missions. By providing NDAA-compliant sUAS platforms, Drone Operations Management Systems (DOMS), training, and program management support, regional stakeholders will be positioned to implement and scale operations in full compliance with FAA regulations.

This initiative also strengthens mission readiness and mutual aid capabilities across Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester Counties. Enhanced interoperability among first responder agencies will reinforce the security of shared airspace over Charleston International Airport and other critical military and infrastructure assets throughout the region.

The shared airspace of Joint Base Charleston and the Charleston International Airport Aviation Complex is a major economic driver, supporting more than 1.5 million travelers annually, over 51,000 jobs, and approximately \$13.8 billion in economic activity. Continued investment in secure and resilient airspace operations is essential to protecting this impact.

We appreciate your consideration of this application and the opportunity to further strengthen collaboration between regional partners and the Department of War in safeguarding our shared airspace.

Sincerely,

2. Base Commander Letter of Support



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 628TH AIR BASE WING (AMC)
JOINT BASE CHARLESTON SC

24 February 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY TODD B. MCCAFFREY

FROM: 628 ABW/CC
102 E. Hill Blvd., Suite A
Joint Base Charleston, SC 29404

SUBJECT: South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs (SCDVA) Military Enhancement Fund Grant Proposal – Expanded Drone Program

1. Secretary McCaffery, thank you for the opportunity to apply for a 2026 SCDVA Military Enhancement Plan Grant. I wholeheartedly endorse the proposed grant request to procure a drone management system, compliant drones, training, and project management to support mutual Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) efforts between Charleston County and Joint Base Charleston (JB CHS). The primary purpose of this initiative is to establish operational control of sUAS across the region, collect and analyze actionable data on interagency drone operations, airspace deconfliction, and threat response in a real-world environment. This data will be instrumental in informing a subsequent state-level strategy to ensure airspace security and operational safety across all of South Carolina.
2. This grant serves as a pilot program and represents a pivotal investment in the future security of the Charleston tri-county region, serving as the cornerstone for a comprehensive, long-term strategy to protect our most critical infrastructure. The integration of a Drone Operations Management System (DOMS) between Charleston County and Joint Base Charleston will do more than multiply our operational capabilities in protecting critical infrastructure within Charleston County (e.g., Charleston International Airport, Port of Charleston, etc.); it will shape a data-driven, replicable model for regional security, protecting our most vital assets across the entire tri-county region. These include the Naval Weapons Station waterways, Navy nuclear training facilities, and critical civilian infrastructure such as nuclear reactors, electrical substations, and the seaport, while also supporting vital Department of Energy (DOE) and Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) missions, along with our growing defense industrial base.
3. Furthermore, with this funding, the SCDVA is not merely purchasing equipment but further investing in civil-military collaboration, and the very architecture of our state's future in advanced aviation and defense. This initial partnership will produce a vital operational playbook for comprehensive statewide interagency drone coordination, airspace deconfliction, and rapid threat response—delivering a consequential capability that can be scaled across South Carolina.
4. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this proposal for your review. Should you require further information regarding this endorsement, please contact Mr. Chase Barron, sUAS Program Manager for the 628th Air Base Wing, at 843-963-1415 or bradley.barron@us.af.mil.

PARKER.JASON Digitally signed by
.H.1171126661
Date: 2026.02.25 12:44:37 -0500

JASON H. PARKER, Colonel, USAF
Commander

"Mission Ready Warfighters Deterring Conflict...TOGETHER!"

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3. Detailed Explanation of the Proposal

In partnership with Joint Base Charleston (JB CHS), Charleston County is pursuing a South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs (SCDVA) Military Enhancement Grant to stand up USAF-compliant drone programs for mutual aid and community partners. The funding, if awarded, will lay the foundation for the county's UAS capabilities for emergency management, public safety, search and rescue, inspection, water and land management, and many other use cases. This initiative is crucial for mission readiness for Joint Base Charleston as it empowers mutual aid partners with the tools and communication platform to assist in securing the airspace over the Charleston County International Airport and the strategic military and critical infrastructure assets along the Cooper River.

The proposed program will provide county and local government stakeholders with NDAA-compliant drones along with the necessary drone operations management system, training, and program management support to execute and scale the program safely and in compliance with FAA regulations and USAF doctrine. This allows partners to utilize drones for various use cases in the vicinity of the installation boundaries without triggering encroachment alerts or worse, airspace closures. This will also enable JB Charleston to conduct routine and planned sUAS operations for use cases such as inspection and land management surveys in areas outside of the installation boundaries.

This initiative strengthens the region's collective security and sUAS operations framework, provides the means to enforce the proposed South Carolina General Assembly Bill H. 4679, the South Carolina Drone Regulation and Public Safety Act, and positions the county and the state for significant federal funding in support of drone activities.

Military Value



Figure 1: Integration Milestone - sUAS Safely Operated Near Active Airfield

This program is a direct expansion of JB CHS' sUAS Program Office efforts to establish sUAS operations in coordination with other mission and community partners. The Secretary of Defense memorandums released in 2025 underscored the importance of UAS to military and, in total, require military units and installations to adopt sUAS use cases *at scale*. JB CHS has wholly embraced this charge and has reached the milestone of safely coordinating sUAS operations on an active airfield. In January 2026, a real-world example of the processes and protocols, drones were flown on an active taxiway to inspect and document airfield lighting. This demonstrated that with proper communication and coordination through JB CHS' Drone Operations Management

System (DOMS), drones can be utilized for use cases such as inspection and routine patrols.

JB CHS has proven that sUAS operations can be safely operated in proximity to active airfields, with the proper processes, controls, and capabilities. The proposed program will extend these controls to select mutual aid partners, enabling them with Drone Programs that can be safely operated in proximity to USAF facilities and operations. Enabling mutual aid partners with USAF-compliant drone programs has these specific military values:

- **Reduced Response Time**

The Drone Operations Management Systems provided in this program extend the installation's sUAS capabilities to mutual aid partners beyond the installation boundaries. Drones can be on scene within minutes, providing crucial information to ensure resources are dispatched quickly.

- **Increased Personal Safety**

With the situational awareness provided by drones, officers/security forces are able to have a live video feed providing information for tactical decisions to ensure personnel safety and quick resolution. Drones can also provide information about facilities (i.e., rooftops), infrastructure (i.e., water towers, antenna towers), and incident sites (i.e., structure fires, wildfires) that would otherwise endanger personnel.

- **Lower Costs**

Incorporating drones into regular installation mission commands has the potential to lower costs through reductions in staff time for tasks, increased capabilities, and, as demonstrated in January, documenting installation assets to ensure contracted services are performed correctly and without damage to installation assets.

- **Scalability**

The program is the logical extension of JB CHS' sUAS Program Office and builds upon their investments. With a successful integration of the initial mutual aid partners, the blueprint is created to repeat with additional agencies across the state and installations across the country.

Installation Resilience

JB CHS is a shared-use facility that requires coordination between civilian and military agencies. Various Emergency Management services can require coordination with any number of the over 40 agencies with jurisdictional responsibility.

This initiative expands the Memoranda of Agreements that are in place with mutual aid partners, defining the roles and responsibilities to ensure airspace safety. It is a necessary action that must be taken prior to the adoption of sUAS in any capacity in the region.



Figure 2: Charleston Aviation Complex

It is virtually impossible for a helicopter or airplane pilot to see a drone while flying. In some cases, airports have been shut down for hours due to a drone encroachment for the safety of the pilots and the region. Implementing the proposed DOMS with its shared airspace model enhances operational safety of the installation and Charleston International Airport. This program will provide the means to locate and respond quickly to any potential encroachments, ensuring operations within critical low-altitude airspace are universally coordinated and safe.

Military Family Quality of Life

This program enhances the following capabilities of the entire tri-county region, including the areas where military families reside.

Improved Emergency Response Public safety drone programs dramatically reduce response times, with drones often arriving on scene in under 90–95 seconds—faster than ground units in many cases. In emergencies, every second counts. By equipping agencies that support military families and surrounding Lowcountry communities with this technology, lives can be saved through real-time aerial intelligence.

Drones provide immediate situational awareness, locate victims (including via thermal imaging in low-visibility or hazardous conditions), and allow responders to assess threats remotely before entering



Figure 3: Drones Can Be Outfitted For Delivery of Blood or Medical Supplies



Figure 4: Drones with Thermal Cameras Aid in Search & Rescue Operations

dangerous areas. This has proven especially valuable for local communities in rural or hard-to-reach parts of Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties.

Improved Public Safety Services Drones serve as a powerful force multiplier, dramatically expanding the support local public safety, fire departments, and mutual aid partners can provide without increasing staffing. They deliver live video feeds for traffic monitoring, crowd control at public events, crime scene documentation, and de-escalation during incidents—enhancing

safety for both officers and residents. In South Carolina, programs like Drone as First Responder (DFR) have demonstrated how communities gain quicker, smarter responses to 911 calls, active threats, and routine patrols while reducing risks to ground teams.

Improved Disaster Relief and Recovery The Drone Operations Management System is ideally suited to support drone use in disaster relief in the hurricane- and flood-prone Lowcountry. Centralized airspace coordination enables safe, efficient integration of UAS and crewed aircraft during Search and Rescue, medical/supply delivery, and victim extraction. Drones rapidly map damage, identify hotspots (e.g., during wildfires or structural collapses), locate survivors in debris or flooded zones, and deliver critical aid to isolated areas—capabilities that are faster, safer, and far less expensive than traditional manned aircraft. Local communities benefit directly through quicker damage assessments, faster recovery planning, and reduced strain on first-responder resources during events that impact thousands of residents, businesses, and military families alike.



Figure 5: Drone Can Be Used To Deliver Supplies To Remote Areas



Figure 6: Commercial Industries Are Embracing Drones

Economic Stimulus At its core, this project fosters collaboration between JB CHS, airport stakeholders, and surrounding community agencies to secure shared airspace while ensuring safe drone operations across the installation and the three counties it borders. Beyond these core safety gains, the Drone Operations Management System acts as a true business incubator. It creates a new infrastructure that supports high-quality, well-paying jobs in drone piloting, maintenance, data analysis, training, and operations—roles that perfectly leverage the skills of military spouses, veterans, and retired service members. Nationally, the drone sector is

projected to generate tens of thousands of jobs and billions in economic activity; locally, similar initiatives (paired with veteran transition programs) have spurred workforce development, new small businesses, and cost savings for governments through efficient infrastructure inspections and asset management. This translates to stronger families, expanded career pipelines for those who served, and broader prosperity for Lowcountry communities.

4. Project Budget

Charleston County is submitting a proposed budget of **\$1,970,440** for the project’s twenty-four-month period of performance. The following table provides a breakdown of the program costs. This is a flexible program that can be scaled up or down via the number of drones that provide sUAS Detection capabilities to the region.

This program will require agencies receiving NDAA-compliant drones to ensure staff operating them are certified through the FAA’s Part 107 Commercial Drone Pilot program. The costs of training and testing

can often be covered in annual training budgets or by state workforce development grants. These costs would be considered as

Additional cost line item details and the third-party estimate are included in the Attachments below.

Component	Description	Cost
USAF-Compliant Drone Operations Management System	Hardware and Software for sUAS Common Operational Platform for 10 agencies	\$865,000
NDAA-Compliant Drones	30 Enterprise Drones and Accessories, 24-month Care support program	\$865,440
Training	In-person training for flight operations, tactical, and common operational platform support	\$90,000
Project Management	Coordination and support for Charleston County to manage site visits, vendor relations, and leading technical integrations	\$150,000
TOTAL BUDGET		\$1,970,440

Spending Timeline

The majority of the funds will be spent during the first 12 months of the project, with major expenditures aligning with the purchase and delivery of drones and software platforms. An additional expenditure will occur with the scheduling of in-person flight and operations training, along with Program and SME support throughout the period of performance. The Gantt chart included in Section F. below shows the approximate timing for the major purchases. Project Management and Program Support Services accrue throughout the duration of the period of performance.

5. Project Objectives

This project seeks to establish USAF-compliant sUAS Programs and Drone Operations Management Systems for Charleston County and select JB CHS mutual aid and/or community partners. The following narrative approximates the Program Plan and includes the objectives, success metrics, and a brief discussion of how the objectives will be attained.

Program Management and Coordination

Charleston County, in full partnership with JB CHS, will identify potential mutual aid partners for participation in the project. This will include discussions with groups to identify willingness and availability of staff and training budget for obtaining FAA Commercial Remote Pilot Licenses.

- Establish a sUAS Program Working Group (Specific to this Program)
 - Success Metric: Updated MOAs for 8 mutual aid/community partners (minimum)
- Active Participation in Program Working Group
 - Success Metric: Regional Emergency Response Plan Updated with UAS Response

Establishment of Mutual Aid UAS Programs

A primary task of the Program Working Group will be to discuss various scenarios and develop Emergency Response plans that encompass the new UAS capabilities. This is a necessary step to ensure jurisdictional authority is maintained. Other tasks will be addressed as identified during the program. Each selected mutual aid partner will be expected to ensure their respective agencies are compliant with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations and USAF doctrine.

- Train Mutual Aid and Community Partners on USAF Protocols
 - Success metric: All agencies have completed training
- Defined Operational Protocols
 - Success metric: Updated MOAs defining roles and responsibilities
- Purchase and Deployment of NDAA-Compliant Drones
 - Success Metric: Mutual Aid Partners deploy three successful test flights of the equipment

Drone Technologies:

Selected mutual aid/community partners will be provided with one or more NDAA-compliant drones, such as Skydio X10 outfitted with either Infrared or Visible Light attachments, two options for flight operations in complete darkness or low-light conditions. Exact drone configurations will be yadda



Figure 7: Skydio X10

- Select strategic mutual aid/community partners to provide support coverage for critical locations and/or use cases.
 - Success metric: Commitment to program requirements and staffing support
 - Success metric: Financial commitment to sustain annual software subscriptions

Drone Operations Management Systems

The Drone Operations Management System is the primary tool each agency will use to coordinate with the USAF. This encompasses the hardware and software necessary for airspace awareness and UAS Traffic Management. It also includes the workflow processes necessary to ensure all operations are aligned with USAF protocols and that all partners are aware of operations to keep the airspace safe.



Figure 8: Integrated Airspace Awareness showing live detection of aircraft at varying altitudes

Figure 7 (right) shows the airspace awareness screen highlighting where air traffic is operating. This screen can be toggled to show operational data either via the map-based, calendar, or list views (Figure 8) for coordination per USAF protocols.

Additional features include:

- The ability to leverage geospatial data repositories for the display of custom GIS datasets
- Customizable Workflows aligned with organizational policies to ensure compliance
- Publishing of advisories and notifications to operators

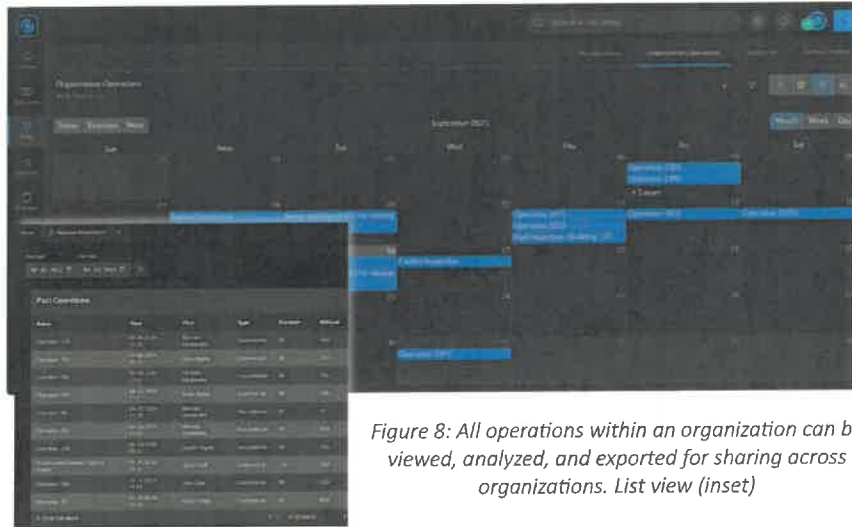


Figure 8: All operations within an organization can be viewed, analyzed, and exported for sharing across organizations. List view (inset)

These tools will be aligned to USAF and JB CHS’s specifications to ensure all operations by mutual aid partners are coordinated with Air Traffic Control and other appropriate mission commands.

- Procurement and Installation of the DOMS
 - Success metric: successful display of airspace awareness data
- DOMS Training
 - Success metric: All participating agencies have completed DOMS onboarding and training

Initial Operating Capability and Exercises

While it is anticipated that the USAF’s protocols will form the basis of the SOP and communication protocols for the region, it is anticipated that minor revisions will be necessary when the systems and processes are tested.

- Development of Standard Operating Procedures and Communication Protocols
 - Success metric: SOPs accepted by mutual aid partners
- Conduct one or more formal tests of the detection and communication systems
 - Success metric: One coordinated and compliant blue force operation across shared airspace, including SSI (restricted areas)

Post-Deployment

UAS technologies are evolving rapidly. It is expected that the sUAS Working Group will continue to meet regularly to discuss challenges, lessons learned, and opportunities for improvements of the systems and processes.

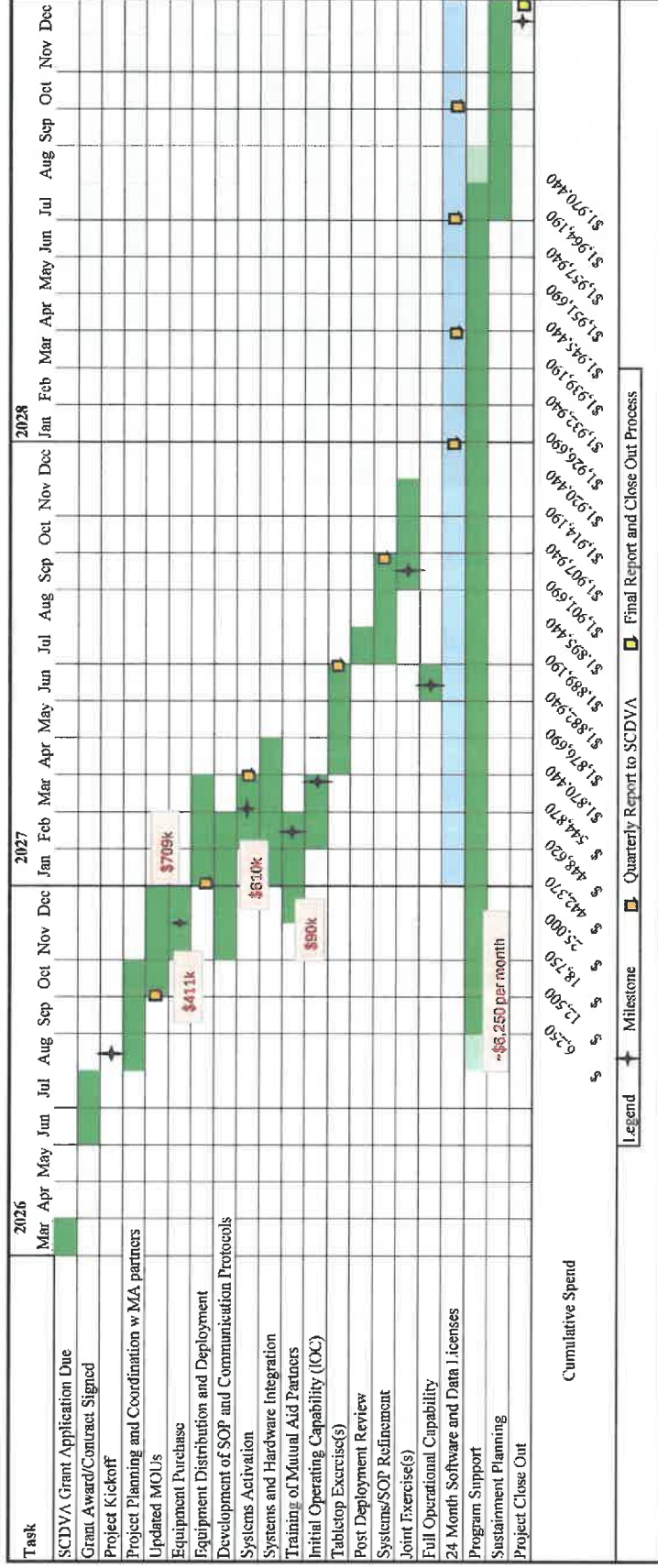
- Continued tests of the entire system, including coordination with crewed flights at JB CHS and Charleston International Airport
 - Success metric: Ongoing successful communication and coordination with individual mutual aid partners
- Conduct one or more formal exercises to confirm the system and coordination efforts
 - Successful completion of one formal exercise with several mutual aid partners
- Program Expansion
 - Success metric: List of additional mutual aid partners or plan to expand to larger regions or with additional capabilities

6. Project Timeline

The proposed timeline shown below is a high-level schedule created utilizing the assumption that the SCDVA grant, if awarded, would provide notice of award in April 2026. This timeline includes several months for Charleston County to work through procurement processes to ensure all relevant procurement processes and regulations are followed. The overall project period of performance is expected to start in August-September 2026, running for twenty-four (24) months, to end in July-August 2027.

For budgetary purposes, Charleston County assumes that it would begin spending for this initiative in September 2026, coordinating with the project kickoff and initial hardware purchases. Funding would continue through the project and end with Full Operational Capability in July-August 2027.

Table 1: Project Gantt and Spending Timeline



7. Independent Project Estimate



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

February 20, 2026

FROM: Craig Spence
Founder/CEO
Aviation Innovations

TO: Mike Walko, HazMat Manager
Charleston County Emergency Management Department

Subject: Third Party Project Cost Estimate - Charleston County SCVDA Grant

1. The Independent Estimate for this project is \$1,970,440
2. The Project Cost Estimate is based upon the review of the cost breakdown shown in the table below.

The table on the following page was used to calculate the proposed project budget. Based on the information and quotes provided, the budget for this program is reasonable and in line with industry standards. Utilizing 24-month subscription model ensures there is ample time for participating agencies to develop sustainment models.

248 Twin Chimneys Drive, Wirtz VA 24184
Craig.spence@aviationinnovations.net
(240-357-8726)



Item	Description	Unit Cost	Units	Total Estimate
Drone Operations Management Systems	AirHub Portal Advanced License, 24-month Software Subscription	\$50,000	10	\$500,000
	ADS-B DaaS, 24-month subscription	\$55,000	2	\$110,000
	Remote ID and RF Detection Hardware and DaaS for 24 months	\$48,000	5	\$240,000
	sUAS Telemetry Extension Device	15,000	1	\$15,000
NDAA-Compliant Drones, Accessories and Software	Skydio X10D Ready Kit [1 battery, 5G/LTE ready) NA + VT300-Z	\$16,108	30	\$567,240
	Skydio NightSense w/ IR Attachment for X10	\$2,800	15	\$42,000
	Skydio NightSense w/Visible Light Attachment for X10	\$2,800	15	\$42,000
	24-month Skydio Connect 5G – Range Extender, WPS Eligible (T-Mobile)	\$2,600	30	\$78,000
	24-month Skydio Data Management and Streaming Suite	\$7,340	30	\$220,000
Training	In-person, two-day Flight Training for up to four (4) students (includes travel/lodging)	\$9,000	10	\$90,000
Project Management	1,000 hours for coordination and support for Charleston County to manage site visits, vendor relations, training coordination, data integration, technical support and coordination, and leading system integrations.	\$150 an hour	1,000	\$150,000




Craig Spence
 Founder/CEO
 Aviation Innovations

8. Other Funding Sources

The work proposed in this application is an extension of an ongoing project of JB CHS to augment its sUAS detection and mitigation capabilities. This has been defined as a mission-critical capability to ensure national security, and throughout the period of performance, JB CHS will be looking for additional funding sources, federal or otherwise, to augment the scope of work through options such as Federal Grants, Community Partnerships, Joint Base engagements, or Public-Private Partnerships.

As a condition of the provision of the NDAA-compliant drones, Charleston County will initiate a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the recipient agencies, ensuring that they will assume responsibility for the drones and contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the equipment and maintain applicable software licenses, as well as operational training following the Program period of performance.

9. Charleston County Anti-Discrimination Policy

CHARLESTON COUNTY PERSONNEL PROCEDURE		
TITLE: Diversity/Affirmative Action Plan	NUMBER: 2.10	PAGE: 1 of 2
EFFECTIVE DATE: 01-03-95	REVISION No. 1	DATE: 09-05-06
	REVISION No. 2	DATE: 07-24-07
	REVISION No. 3	DATE: 07-01-15
AUTHORIZED BY: J. Elliott Summey, Chairman 		

PROCEDURE:

As an equal opportunity employer, the County develops an annual Diversity/Affirmative Action Plan which analyzes the County's minority and female utilization status and outlines a plan of action to correct under-utilization. The Plan is updated annually.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. Human Resources Department

1. Compile and analyze Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) statistical data. This will be completed at the beginning of each calendar year, using statistical data from the previous calendar year.
2. Coordinate the development of a plan of action for improving areas of under-utilization.
3. Communicate and post a signed statement of commitment from the County Administrator. This statement, which embodies the County Administrator's endorsement of the County Diversity/Affirmative Action Plan, shall be conspicuously posted in all permanent worksite locations.
4. Have available a copy of the Diversity/Affirmative Action Plan for employees/others to review in the Human Resources Department.
5. Provide a copy of the annual Affirmative Action Plan to each department/office upon approval by the County Administrator.

B. County Administrator

1. Review and approve the annual Diversity/Affirmative Action Plan.
2. Issue an annual statement of commitment for inclusion in the County Diversity/Affirmative Action Plan, as well as for posting in all permanent worksite locations.

TITLE: Affirmative Action Plan
DATE: 07-01-15

NUMBER: 2.10
PAGE: 2 of 2

C. Management and Employees

1. Responsibilities are delineated in the annual Diversity/Affirmative Action Plan.

D. Legal Department

1. Provide advice on questions or concerns that may have legal implications.

CHARLESTON COUNTY PERSONNEL PROCEDURE

TITLE: Workplace Harassment Prevention and Complaint Procedure

NUMBER: 2.20

PAGE: 1 of 6

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01-03-95

REVISION No. 1

DATE: 09-05-06

REVISION No. 2

DATE: 07-24-07

REVISION No. 3

DATE: 07-01-15

REVISION No. 4

DATE: 04-23-19

AUTHORIZED BY: J. Elliott Summey, Chairman



PROCEDURE

A. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE:

Charleston County is committed to maintaining a workplace free from employment discrimination and harassment. The County prohibits harassment and discrimination of any employee based upon their protected class status. Protected classes include race, color, sex, religion, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, marital status, disability (including pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition), genetic information, and/or gender identity. The County expects all employees to treat each other with civility, professionalism and respect. *(See Charleston County Personnel Policy 2.00 for policy statement.)*

This procedure provides definitions and examples of harassment, employee and management responsibilities necessary to prevent harassment, and procedures for reporting harassment complaints.

B. DEFINITION OF HARASSMENT

Harassment is a form of discrimination that is unwelcome conduct based on *race, color, sex, religion, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, age (40 or older), veteran status, marital status, disability (including pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition), genetic information, and/or gender identity*. Harassment based on a protected class occurs where 1) enduring the offensive conduct becomes a condition of continued employment, or 2) the conduct unreasonably interferes with a person's work performance 3) the conduct is severe, pervasive, and/or frequent enough to create a work environment that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive.

The County also prohibits retaliation against individuals for submitting a complaint of harassment or for participating in a harassment investigation.

CHARLESTON COUNTY PERSONNEL PROCEDURE	
TITLE: Workplace Harassment Prevention and Complaint Procedure	NUMBER: 2.20 PAGE: 2 of 6
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Examples of harassment/offensive conduct based on protected class may include but is not limited to:

- Offensive jokes;
- Slurs;
- Epithets (nicknames) or name calling;
- Physical assaults or threats;
- Intimidation;
- Ridicule or mockery;
- Insults or put-downs;
- Offensive objects or pictures (including websites) and
- Interference with work performance.

Although possibly inappropriate, not every comment or incident is considered harassment. Petty slights, annoyances, and isolated incidences (unless extremely offensive) do not normally rise to the level of harassment. To be harassment, the conduct must create a work environment that would be intimidating, hostile, or offensive to a reasonable person.

Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. Such conduct may include, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term of condition of an individual's employment.
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting the individual.
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance.
4. Additional examples of sexual harassment include:
 - Demands for sexual favors in exchange for favorable treatment or continued employment;
 - Threats and demands to submit to sexual requests in order to obtain or retain any employment benefit;
 - Verbal conduct of a sexual nature such as nicknames, derogatory or obscene comments, slurs or sexual invitations, sexual jokes, propositions, suggestive, insulting, or obscene comments, or gestures or other verbal abuse of a sexual nature;
 - Discriminatory intimidation based on gender, ridicule or insult based on an employee's gender;
 - Verbal commentary about an individual's physical appearance or sexuality;

CHARLESTON COUNTY PERSONNEL PROCEDURE	
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- Flirtations, advances, leering, whistling, touching, pinching, assault, coerced sexual acts, blocking normal movements;
- Assigning work projects based on sex or gender without a bona fide qualification.

WHO IS COVERED BY THIS PROCEDURE

This procedure covers all individuals in the workplace. The County will not tolerate, condone, or allow harassment, whether engaged in by fellow employees, supervisors, or by outside clients, or other non-employees who conduct business with the County.

The County requires reporting of all incidents of harassment, regardless of who the offender may be or the offender's relationship to the County.

Any reported allegations of discrimination or harassment will be appropriately investigated. The investigation process will vary depending on the nature of the complaint. Complaints will be handled as confidentially as possible in keeping with the need to investigate. All employees have an obligation to cooperate fully and truthfully with any investigation and not to discuss the investigation. Any effort to hinder an investigation will be considered a policy violation just as is the actual discrimination/harassment or any retaliation against reporting individuals.

When the investigation leads to the conclusion that a violation occurred, appropriate action will be taken to remedy the violation.

HARASSMENT COMPLAINT PROCESS

Note: Not all conduct which employees find objectionable or bothersome constitutes unlawful harassment or a violation of County policy. However, the County strives for an environment that is comfortable for everyone.

PROCEDURE:

A. Resolution Process

To resolve harassment, employees are encouraged to:

1. If appropriate, resolve the problem with the individual responsible for the harassment;
or
2. Bring the problem to the attention of his/her supervisor or manager in the chain of command if the problem is not resolved; or

CHARLESTON COUNTY PERSONNEL PROCEDURE	
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3. Contact the County's Human Resources Department.

B. Complaint Process

To make a complaint, employees should:

1. Contact his/her supervisor, manager in the chain of command, or a Human Resources representative. The complaint will be kept as confidential as possible, in keeping with the need to investigate and resolve it.
2. The supervisor/manager will contact the Human Resources Department so an investigation may be initiated.
3. The Human Resources Director or his/her designee(s) will notify the County Administrator and the Legal Department that a complaint has been filed and will begin an investigation that is appropriate in light of the nature of the complaint.
4. Upon completion of the investigation, the Human Resources Director or his/her designee(s) will report the findings and conclusions to the County Administrator with a recommendation as to whether the conduct concluded to have taken place constitutes a violation of County policy.
5. Where a violation is found, the Human Resources Department will coordinate with the appropriate Elected Official, Appointed Official, Department Head, and/or Supervisor(s) to determine and take the most appropriate action.
6. At the conclusion of the process, the complaining individual will be notified as to the resolution of the complaint. The individual is not entitled to know the details of any disciplinary action taken against any other employee; they will be told that appropriate action has been taken.
7. The individual named in the complaint (respondent) will be notified as to the findings of the investigation.
8. Prior to closing the complaint file, the Human Resources Director will notify all appropriate individuals, including the Legal Department, of the action taken to resolve the matter.
9. If a complaint involves the Human Resources Department, the County Administrator will designate someone outside of the Human Resources Department to investigate the complaint.

CHARLESTON COUNTY PERSONNEL PROCEDURE	
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NOTE: It is a violation of this policy to retaliate in any manner against an individual who reports discrimination or harassment or who participates in an investigation of such a report. Retaliation can sometimes take subtle forms, and it is extremely important that employees report violations immediately using the reporting procedure contained in this policy so that corrective measures can be taken. Individuals who retaliate against reporters of harassment or discrimination will be subject to discipline up to and including discharge.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. Employee

1. Maintain professional workplace behavior and remain knowledgeable about what may result in a complaint of offensive behavior/comments or a hostile work environment.
2. If inappropriate behavior or offensive conduct is directed toward you or if you witness such behavior, report it. You are encouraged but not required to make an effort to talk with the offender to stop the offensive behavior.
3. Report it: go to a supervisor or manager in the chain of command, department head, or Human Resources representative. Employees are not bound to report the incident to their immediate supervisor. They may go to any management representative, elected or appointed official or department head in their chain of command or Human Resources. It is critical to report the offense so that it can be investigated and addressed.
4. Do your part to maintain a harmonious, professional, and respectful workplace. Treat each and every individual in the workplace with respect and dignity.
5. All employees have a duty to report observed harassment through the resolution process and the complaint process, as applicable.

B. Management

1. All managers and supervisors are expected to take necessary steps to maintain a harmonious, professional, and respectful workplace.
2. Take complaints of harassment seriously and promptly take the necessary steps to investigate a complaint. Maintain confidentiality to the extent possible, alerting only those who have a "need to know" of the complaint. (This may include managers in the chain of command, the alleged harasser, witnesses, and Human Resources).
3. Report the complaint to your manager and to Human Resources and work with Human Resources to investigate and determine the resolution.

CHARLESTON COUNTY PERSONNEL PROCEDURE	
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4. Take action to prevent retaliation to provide employees with a workplace that is free of harassment.

NOTE: Supervisors or managers who observe or receive reports of harassment or discrimination are required to report same to the appropriate department head or H.R. Failure to do so will subject the supervisor or manager to discipline up to and including discharge.

C. Director of Human Resources or His/Her Designee(s)

1. Maintain confidentiality and privacy of the complainant (alleged victim) and respondent (alleged harasser) to the extent possible.
2. Follow up with complainant and respondent upon completion of investigation.
3. Talk with the individual making the complaint and, if necessary, obtain his/her signed statement to initiate an investigation. Advise the individual that an investigation will be conducted. Provide reasonable assistance to both the complainant, respondent and management.
4. Notify County Administrator and Legal Department that a complaint has been filed.
5. Conduct an impartial investigation appropriate to the nature of the complaint.
6. Coordinate with the appropriate Elected Official, Appointed Official, department head and/or Supervisor(s) to determine and take appropriate action.
7. Report findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the County Administrator.
8. Notify the appropriate individual(s) and the County's Legal Department of the resolution of the complaint.

D. Legal Department

1. Provide advice on questions or concerns that may have legal implications and expeditiously review the investigation report and recommendations for any legal issues.

APPLICABLE PROCEDURES:

- 2.00 Diversity and Equal Opportunity statement
- 7.30 Disciplinary Action
- 7.40 Grievance Procedure

10. Charleston County Operating Financial Statement

Due to the document's excessive length (>200 pages), we are providing the most recent operating financial statements as a separate attachment.

Please see the separate file: Charleston County SCDA Grant Attachments.pdf

11. Military Enhancement Grant Proposal Form

Military Enhancement Fund Grant Proposals

Effective 1 Jul 25

For fiscal year 1 Jul 25 – 30 Jun 26



The South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs (SCDVA) administers the Military Enhancement Plan as directed in Budget Provisos which state, "Funds appropriated to the department for the Military Enhancement Plan may be allocated to items including, but not limited to, land acquisition, recreational purposes, educational purposes, and facilities for military personnel. **Eligible recipients are counties and municipalities with federal military installations.**"

Federal military installations, as defined in South Carolina Code 6-29-1625 (A), include Fort Jackson, Shaw Air Force Base, McEntire Joint National Guard Base, Joint Base Charleston, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Beaufort Naval Hospital, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Charleston Naval Weapons Station, and Fort Gordon, GA. For the purposes of this program, US Coast Guard Installations in South Carolina are also considered federal military installations, as are any subordinate federal installations of those named above.

Section One - Eligibility Criteria

The grant applicant must be one of the following counties or municipal government agencies with a federal military installation, as defined above, within or adjacent to your jurisdictional boundaries:

Richland, Sumter, Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester, Georgetown, Beaufort, Orangeburg, Aiken, or Edgefield.

The maximum grant amount is \$2,000,000.

Deadlines for proposals to be accepted for review are 1 March and 1 September.

Section Two – Application Requirements

To be considered for a grant under this program, your proposal must include the following documents and information in the order it is listed below. A proposal which does not meet any of the requirements below will not be considered.

- A. Cover letter on the letterhead of your county or municipality with a reference line including the project name and amount requested. The letter should give a brief description of the scope of the proposal, the military installation(s) it will benefit, and whether there will be a financial match from the applicant.
- B. Signed letter of support by the local installation commander(s) stating how the military installation will benefit from the proposal.
- C. Detailed explanation of the proposal, and how it will enhance military value, installation resilience, or military family quality of life at the supported military installation(s) or community.
- D. Detailed budget for the proposal, to include a spending timeline.
- E. List of specific project objectives and how they will be achieved.
- F. Timeline for completing the project to include start dates, milestones, and completion dates.
- G. Independent, third-party estimate of the cost of the proposal, prepared by a qualified entity. If property is being purchased, a fair market appraisal must be included in the proposal.
- H. Detailed account of any other funding source you intend to apply for in conjunction with this grant, to include source and dollar amount (if, for example, your grant proposal covers only a sub-project as part of a larger project).
- I. Copy of the anti-discrimination policy of the applying county or municipality.
- J. Most recent operating financial statement of the applying county or municipality.

List the name, email and phone contact information for the primary and alternate personnel overseeing the project.

Eric Watson, ewatson@charlestoncounty.org (843) 958-4091
Primary point of contact

Justin Pierce, jpierce@charlestoncounty.org, (843) 746-3805
Alternate point of contact

Section Three - Evaluation Criteria

Eligible grant proposals will be evaluated based on 1) its effect on mission readiness; 2) its effect on military quality of life, 3) its effect on the surrounding community; 4) its timeliness; and 5) the degree to which the costs of the project(s) are shared with other funding sources. The score sheet used for evaluating proposals, as well as this document can be found on our website at <https://scdva.sc.gov/military-enhancement-fund-grants-proposals>.

The Department makes every effort to fund grants at the amount requested. However, the Secretary may adjust award amounts based on the availability of funds and other considerations. **Final decision authority for awarding grants under this program rests with the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs.**

Section Four - Agreement Statement

If awarded a grant, I agree to provide to the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs quarterly reports, detailing how all grant funds were spent to date and the progress on achieving the objectives defined in the grant proposal. I am aware the information provided in my report will be reviewed by the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee and is subject to audit by the State Auditor. Additionally, I agree to provide the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs additional reports and supporting documents as may be required, and to allow the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs or its designee to conduct inspections of the project.

William L. Tutten
Signature of Applicant

February 24, 2020
Date

William L. Tutten
Name of Applicant

\$ 1,905,000
Amount of Proposal Request

County Administrator
Title of Applicant

wtutten@charlestoncounty.org
Email Address

Section Five - Administrative Instructions

Send completed proposals to MEF@scdva.sc.gov no later than the application closing date. If you have not received a confirmation of receipt of your application within 3 business days, contact Sandy Claypoole at 803-683-1361 or Jason Fowler at 803-683-0242.

Additional Letters of Support

In addition to the letters provided here, Charleston County has received letters of support from several Joint Base Charleston mutual aid and community partners, including:

- Berkeley County Emergency Management Department
- Goose Creek Police Department
- Hanahan Police Department
- Pimlico Fire Department
- North Charleston Police Department
- South Berkeley Fire District
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- Sullivans Island Police Department
- Summerville Police Department

United States Representative Nancy Mace

NANCY MACE
1ST DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND REFORM

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
1728 LONGWORTH HOUSE
OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3176
WWW.MACE.HOUSE.GOV

DANIEL ISLAND OFFICE
900 ISLAND PARK DRIVE
SUITE 260
DANIEL ISLAND, SC 29492
(843) 352-7572

BEAUFORT OFFICE
710 BOUNDARY ST.
BEAUFORT, SC 29902
(843) 521-2530

February 26, 2026

The Honorable Todd B. McCaffrey
Secretary
South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 401
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Secretary McCaffrey,

We are pleased to express our strong support for Charleston County's proposed project, in partnership with Joint Base Charleston, under the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs Military Enhancement Fund Grant. This initiative positions the tri-county region to lead in the safe, effective, and transparent integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into community services, mutual aid operations, and shared airspace.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, our office recognizes that UAS and counter-UAS capabilities are a priority for our national defense and domestic security. This project builds on Joint Base Charleston's installation-wide Drone Operations Management System, which coordinates crewed and uncrewed operations while preserving U.S. Air Force mission readiness and air safety standards. Expanding this framework across Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties will ensure interoperable drone programs operate in concert with the U.S. Air Force and the FAA, while strengthening the base's operational resilience and enhancing both national security and regional prosperity.

This proposal is an excellent opportunity to establish Joint Base Charleston, the tri-counties, and South Carolina as leaders in UAS capabilities. We simply ask you to give this application its due and fair consideration. Please feel free to contact my District Director with any questions or concerns at noah.longest@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Nancy Mace
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Charleston Regional Airport Authority

February 20, 2026

Ms. Sandy Claypoole and Mr. Jason Fowler
South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
1800 St. Junian Place, Suite 305
Columbia, SC 29204

Re: Letter of Support for Charleston County Military Enhancement Fund Grant Application

Dear Ms. Claypoole and Mr. Fowler,

The Charleston Regional Airport Authority is pleased to express our strong commitment to Charleston County's proposed project, in partnership with Joint Base Charleston, for the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs Military Enhancement Fund Grant. This initiative marks a pivotal moment for the tri-county region to lead the way in safely, effectively and transparently integrating unmanned aircraft systems into broad community services, mutual aid activities and the shared airspace.

The proposed project builds on Joint Base Charleston's efforts in implementing an installation-wide Drone Operations Management System that coordinates crewed and uncrewed operations to maximize the benefits of drones while maintaining U.S. Air Force mission readiness and air safety doctrine. This project extends these efforts in partnership with public organizations across Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties — providing the means for mutual aid and community partners to stand up Drone Programs that work in concert with the Air Force, FAA and Charleston Regional Aviation Authority (CRAA).

This initiative strengthens mutual aid and community efforts by communicating and coordinating UAS operations on and off the base. It also increases the safety and resiliency of the installation airfield and Charleston International Airport and provides the means to facilitate and enforce state and local UAS statutes.

We are excited to be part of this program that enables Joint Base Charleston mutual aid and community partners with U.S. Air Force-grade Drone Operations Management capabilities and establishes the first dual-use UAS infrastructure in the country. It is the beginning of integrating UAS operations *at scale* — and creates a repeatable blueprint for the country that establishes Joint Base Charleston, the tri-counties, and South Carolina as leaders in UAS capabilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to support this critical and timely UAS integration project. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further discussion or information.

Sincerely,



Brian M. Query

Vice President of Airport Operations
Charleston International Airport

February 20, 2026

Ms. Sandy Claypoole and Mr. Jason Fowler
South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
1800 St. Junian Place, Suite 305
Columbia, SC 29204

Re: Letter of Support for Charleston County Military Enhancement Fund Grant Application

Dear Ms. Claypoole and Mr. Fowler,

Boeing Security and Fire Operations is pleased to express our strong commitment to Charleston County's proposed project, in partnership with Joint Base Charleston, for the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs Military Enhancement Fund Grant. This initiative marks a pivotal moment for the tri-county region to lead the way in safely, effectively and transparently integrating unmanned aircraft systems into broad community services, mutual aid activities and the shared airspace.

The proposed project builds on Joint Base Charleston's efforts in implementing an installation-wide Drone Operations Management System that coordinates crewed and uncrewed operations to maximize the benefits of drones while maintaining U.S. Air Force mission readiness and air safety doctrine. This project extends these efforts in partnership with public organizations across Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties — providing the means for mutual aid partners to stand up Drone Programs that work in concert with the Air Force, FAA and Charleston County International Airport.

This initiative strengthens mutual aid efforts by communicating and coordinating UAS operations on and off the base. It also increases the safety and resiliency of the installation airfield and Charleston County International Airport and provides the means to facilitate and enforce state and local UAS statutes.

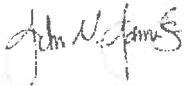
We are excited to be part of this program that enables Joint Base Charleston mutual aid partners with U.S. Air Force-grade Drone Operations Management capabilities and establishes the first dual-use UAS infrastructure in the country. It is the beginning of integrating UAS operations *at scale* — and creates a repeatable blueprint for the country that establishes Joint Base Charleston, the tri-counties, and South Carolina as leaders in UAS capabilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to support this critical and timely UAS integration project. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further discussion or information.

Points of Contact:

John James, Fire Chief and Senior Leader for the Boeing Company, 843-735-3409
john.n.james2@boeing.com

Sincerely,



John James, Fire Chief and Drone Program Manager for Boeing Security and Fire Operations 843-735-3409 john.n.james2@boeing.com

February 26, 2026

Ms. Sandy Claypoole and Mr. Jason Fowler
South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
1800 St. Junian Place, Suite 305
Columbia, SC 29204

Re: Letter of Support for Charleston County Military Enhancement Fund Grant Application

Dear Ms. Claypoole and Mr. Fowler,

South Carolina Ports Authority is pleased to express our strong commitment to Charleston County's proposed project, in partnership with Joint Base Charleston, for the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs Military Enhancement Fund Grant. This initiative marks a pivotal moment for the tri-county region to lead the way in safely, effectively and transparently integrating unmanned aircraft systems into broad community services, mutual aid activities and the shared airspace.

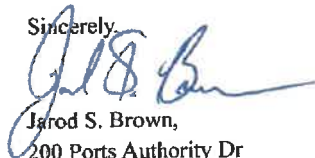
The proposed project builds on Joint Base Charleston's efforts in implementing an installation-wide Drone Operations Management System that coordinates crewed and uncrewed operations to maximize the benefits of drones while maintaining U.S. Air Force mission readiness and air safety doctrine. This project extends these efforts in partnership with public organizations across Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties — providing the means for mutual aid partners to stand up Drone Programs that work in concert with the Air Force, FAA and Charleston County International Airport.

This initiative strengthens mutual aid efforts by communicating and coordinating UAS operations on and off the base. It also increases the safety and resiliency of the installation airfield and Charleston County International Airport and provides the means to facilitate and enforce state and local UAS statutes.

We are excited to be part of this program that enables Joint Base Charleston mutual aid partners with U.S. Air Force-grade Drone Operations Management capabilities and establishes the first dual-use UAS infrastructure in the country. It is the beginning of integrating UAS operations *at scale* — and creates a repeatable blueprint for the country that establishes Joint Base Charleston, the tri-counties, and South Carolina as leaders in UAS capabilities. As an \$87 billion annual economic driver for the state. We feel this will be a valuable tool in adding an extra layer to our already layered security measures.

We appreciate the opportunity to support this critical and timely UAS integration project. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further discussion or information.

Sincerely,



Jarod S. Brown,
200 Ports Authority Dr
Mt Pleasant, SC 29464
OFFICE (843) 579-4445
Mobile (843) 709-5501
DIRECTOR, SAFETY AND SECURITY
SOUTH CAROLINA PORTS AUTHORITY

United States Coast Guard, Sector Charleston



Commander
United States Coast Guard
Sector Charleston

1050 Register St
Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 740-7072
Staff Symbol: s
Email: Shawn.A.Lansing@uscg.mil

5000
February 27, 2026

Ms. Sandy Claypoole and Mr. Jason Fowler
South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
1800 St. Junian Place, Suite 305
Columbia, SC 29204

Dear Ms. Claypoole and Mr. Fowler,

Coast Guard Sector Charleston strongly supports the joint Charleston County - Joint Base Charleston proposal to stand up U.S. Air Force-compliant drone programs for mutual aid and community partners via the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs Military Enhancement Fund Grant.

The Charleston port complex is a military strategic seaport that enables global power projection and provides \$94 billion in economic impact to the regional economy. In addition to Joint Base Charleston, over the coming years the port will also serve as a home to the Coast Guard's largest base on the east coast and home to several national security, offshore patrol, and aids-to-navigation cutters.

UAS can be both a powerful tool and a significant risk. A well-coordinated, multi-agency Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) program will serve as a force multiplier, proving invaluable for maritime security and the protection of critical infrastructure, while also deterring illegal UAS activities by adversaries.

We appreciate the opportunity to support this critical and timely UAS integration project. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further discussion or information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shawn A. Lansing".

Shawn A. Lansing
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Sector Charleston

Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG)



CHAIR: Gary Brewer • VICE CHAIR: David Dennis • SECRETARY: Mike Seekings • TREASURER: David Chinnis • EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Ronald E. Mitchum

February 27, 2026

Ms. Sandy Claypoole and Mr. Jason Fowler
South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
1800 St. Junian Place, Suite 305
Columbia, SC 29204

Re: Letter of Support for Charleston County Military Enhancement Fund Grant Application

Dear Ms. Claypoole and Mr. Fowler,

The Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG) is pleased to express our strong commitment to Charleston County's proposed project, in partnership with Joint Base Charleston, for the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs Military Enhancement Fund Grant. This initiative marks a pivotal moment for the tri-county region to lead the way in safely, effectively and transparently integrating the use of unmanned aircraft systems into broad community services, mutual aid activities and the shared airspace.

The proposed project builds on Joint Base Charleston's efforts to implement an installation-wide Drone Operations Management System that coordinates crewed and uncrewed operations to maximize the benefits of drones while maintaining U.S. Air Force mission readiness and air safety doctrine. This project extends these efforts in partnership with public organizations across Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties — providing the means for mutual aid partners to stand up Drone Programs that work in concert with the Air Force, FAA and Charleston International Airport operations.

This initiative strengthens mutual aid efforts by communicating and coordinating UAS operations on and off the base. It also increases the safety and resiliency of the installation airfield and Charleston International Airport and provides the means to facilitate and enforce state and local UAS statutes.

We are excited to be part of this program that enables Joint Base Charleston's mutual aid partners to utilize U.S. Air Force-grade Drone Operations Management capabilities and establishes the first dual-use UAS infrastructure in the country. It is the beginning of integrating UAS operations *at scale* — and creates a repeatable blueprint for other installations taking lead from the coordination between Joint Base Charleston, the tri-counties, and South Carolina in UAS capabilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to support this critical and timely UAS integration project. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Kathryn Basha, Planning Director at 843.529.0400 for further discussion or information.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Mitchum
Executive Director
cc: Kathryn S. Basha, Planning Director, kathrynb@bcdcog.com

PLANNING, PARTNERSHIP & PROSPERITY

5790 CASPER PADGETT WAY • NORTH CHARLESTON, SC 29406 • TEL 843.529.0400



February 23, 2026

Ms. Sandy Claypoole and Mr. Jason Fowler
South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
1800 St. Junian Place, Suite 305
Columbia, SC 29204

Re: Letter of Support for Charleston County Military Enhancement Fund Grant Application

Dear Ms. Claypoole and Mr. Fowler,

The Charleston County Sheriff's Office is pleased to express our strong commitment to Charleston County's proposed project, in partnership with Joint Base Charleston, for the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs Military Enhancement Fund Grant. This initiative marks a pivotal moment for the tri-county region to lead the way in safely, effectively and transparently integrating unmanned aircraft systems into broad community services, mutual aid activities and the shared airspace.

The proposed project builds on Joint Base Charleston's efforts in implementing an installation-wide Drone Operations Management System that coordinates crewed and uncrewed operations to maximize the benefits of drones while maintaining U.S. Air Force mission readiness and air safety doctrine. This project extends these efforts in partnership with public organizations across Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties — providing the means for mutual aid partners to stand up Drone Programs that work in concert with the Air Force, FAA and Charleston County International Airport.

This initiative strengthens mutual aid efforts by communicating and coordinating UAS operations on and off the base. It also increases the safety and resiliency of the installation airfield and Charleston County International Airport and provides the means to facilitate and enforce state and local UAS statutes.

We are excited to be part of this program that enables Joint Base Charleston mutual aid partners with U.S. Air Force-grade Drone Operations Management capabilities and establishes the first dual-use UAS infrastructure in the country. It is the beginning of integrating UAS operations *at scale* — and creates a repeatable blueprint for the country that establishes Joint Base Charleston, the tri-counties, and South Carolina as leaders in UAS capabilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to support this critical and timely UAS integration project. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further discussion or information.

Points of Contact:
Captain Fletcher Ferguson
Special Operations Commander
843-460-4945
ferguson@charlestoncounty.org

Detective Daniel Harris
Unmanned Aerial Systems Commander
585-314-1698
dharris@charlestoncounty.org

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Sheriff Carl Ritchie, written in a cursive style.

Sheriff Carl Ritchie
Charleston County Sheriff's Office

Berkeley County Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff



County of Berkeley

Sheriff S. Duane Lewis

February 24, 2026

Ms. Sandy Claypoole and Mr. Jason Fowler
South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 305
Columbia, SC 29204

Re: Letter of Support for Charleston County Military Enhancement Fund Grant Application

Dear Ms. Claypoole and Mr. Fowler,

Berkeley County Sheriff's Office is pleased to express our strong commitment to Charleston County's proposed project, in partnership with Joint Base Charleston, for the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs Military Enhancement Fund Grant. This initiative marks a pivotal moment for the tri-county region to lead the way in safely, effectively and transparently integrating unmanned aircraft systems into broad community services, mutual aid activities and the shared airspace.

The proposed project builds on Joint Base Charleston's efforts in implementing an installation-wide Drone Operations Management System that coordinates crewed and uncrewed operations to maximize the benefits of drones while maintaining U.S. Air Force mission readiness and air safety doctrine. This project extends these efforts in partnership with public organizations across Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties — providing the means for mutual aid partners to stand up Drone Programs that work in concert with the Air Force, FAA and Charleston County International Airport.

This initiative strengthens mutual aid efforts by communicating and coordinating UAS operations on and off the base. It also increases the safety and resiliency of the installation airfield and Charleston County International Airport and provides the means to facilitate and enforce state and local UAS statutes.

We are excited to be part of this program that enables Joint Base Charleston mutual aid partners with U.S. Air Force-grade Drone Operations Management capabilities and establishes the first dual-use UAS infrastructure in the country. It is the beginning of integrating UAS operations *at scale* and creates a repeatable blueprint for the country that establishes Joint Base Charleston, the tri-counties, and South Carolina as leaders in UAS capabilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to support this critical and timely UAS integration project. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further discussion or information.

Points of Contact:
Bobby Shuler, Major, Cell# 843-509-9070

Sincerely,

S. Duane Lewis
Sheriff

Administration Office
223 N. Live Oak Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
- Sheriff -
Office (843) 719-4414
Fax (843) 719-4274

Hill— Finklee Detention Center
300 California Avenue
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
Office (843) 719-4390
Fax (843) 719-4592

Law Enforcement Division
223 N Live Oak Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
- Patrol & Investigations -
Office (843) 719-4412
Fax (843) 719-4537

DORCHESTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SUMMERVILLE
212 Deming Way, Box #9
Summerville, SC 29483
Office (843) 832-0300



ST. GEORGE
101 Ridge Street, Suite 1
St. George, SC 29477
Office (843) 563-0259

SHERIFF SAM RICHARDSON

February 24, 2026

Ms. Sandy Claypoole and Mr. Jason Fowler

South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs 1800 St. Junian Place, Suite 305 Columbia, SC 29204

Re: Letter of Support for Charleston County Military Enhancement Fund Grant Application

Dear Ms. Claypoole and Mr. Fowler,

Dorchester County Sheriff's Office is pleased to express our strong commitment to Charleston County's proposed project, in partnership with Joint Base Charleston, for the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs Military Enhancement Fund Grant. This initiative marks a pivotal moment for the tri-county region to lead the way in safely, effectively and transparently integrating unmanned aircraft systems into broad community services, mutual aid activities and the shared airspace.

The proposed project builds on Joint Base Charleston's efforts in implementing an installation-wide Drone Operations Management System that coordinates crewed and uncrewed operations to maximize the benefits of drones while maintaining U.S. Air Force mission readiness and air safety doctrine. This project extends these efforts in partnership with public organizations across Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties — providing the means for mutual aid partners to stand up Drone Programs that work in concert with the Air Force, FAA and Charleston County International Airport.

This initiative strengthens mutual aid efforts by communicating and coordinating UAS operations on and off the base. It also increases the safety and resiliency of the installation airfield and Charleston County International Airport and provides the means to facilitate and enforce state and local UAS statutes.

We are excited to be part of this program that enables Joint Base Charleston mutual aid partners with U.S. Air Force-grade Drone Operations Management capabilities and establishes the first dual-use UAS infrastructure in the country. It is the beginning of integrating UAS operations at scale — and creates a repeatable blueprint for the country that establishes Joint Base Charleston, the tri-counties, and South Carolina as leaders in UAS capabilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to support this critical and timely UAS integration project. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further discussion or information.

Points of Contact: Lieutenant Michael McKee mmckee@dorchestercountysc.gov; Chief Deputy Stephen Young syoung@dorchestercountysc.gov

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sheriff Sam Richardson in blue ink.

Sheriff Sam Richardson
Dorchester County Sheriff's Office

March 2, 2026

Ms. Sandy Claypoole and Mr. Jason Fowler
South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
1800 St. Junian Place, Suite 305
Columbia, SC 29204

Re: Letter of Support for Charleston County Military Enhancement Fund Grant Application

Dear Ms. Claypoole and Mr. Fowler,

Boeing South Carolina is pleased to express our strong commitment to Charleston County's proposed project, in partnership with Joint Base Charleston, for the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs Military Enhancement Fund Grant. This initiative marks a pivotal moment for the tri-county region to lead the way in safely, effectively and transparently integrating unmanned aircraft systems into broad community services, mutual aid activities and the shared airspace.

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We are excited to be part of this program that enables Joint Base Charleston mutual aid partners with U.S. Air Force-grade Drone Operations Management capabilities and establishes the first dual-use UAS infrastructure in the country. It is the beginning of integrating UAS operations *at scale* — and creates a repeatable blueprint for the country that establishes Joint Base Charleston, the tri-counties, and South Carolina as leaders in UAS capabilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to support this critical and timely UAS integration project. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further discussion or information.

Points of Contact:

Jessica Williford, 843-469-3969

Sincerely,
Jessica Williford
Director, State Advocacy & Global Engagement
Boeing South Carolina

