


Police Aircraft Purchase and Use

Galen Carroll, Chief of Police

Flight Design CTLEi Aircraft



Flight Design CTLEi Aircraft



- Light Sport FAA classification – max weight 1320 lbs
- Uses 91 octane unleaded fuel
- 6 to 10 hours of flight time before refueling
- Speed range from 40 to 120 knots
- Ballistic parachute attached to wing
- Excellent safety record
- Used by Tulare County Sheriff's Department since 2009
- Purchased by Kings County Sheriff's Department in 2014

Aircraft Capabilities



- Full motion HD camera with long range scope and night vision
- Digital video recording for evidence retention
- Digital video downlink for command control and scene management
- Full motion spotlight
- Communication interoperability



Aircraft Purpose and Mission



- Proactive:
 - Patrol business districts, parks, and neighborhoods
 - Observe critical infrastructure. Ex: Water Treatment Plant
 - Traffic Enforcement
- Emergency Response
 - Critical Incidents
 - Vehicle Pursuits
 - Search Perimeters
- Special Investigations
 - Gang/Drug investigations
 - Violent Crime and Theft Investigations




Cost Breakdown



- Airplane base price - **\$191,550**
 - Airplane options - **\$10,4880** – wing tip landing lights, anti collision light on tail, auto pilot, upgraded communications and Macaplex photo window
 - Additional costs **\$125,941** – Computer systems and components, spotlight, police radio systems, training and installation of components and taxes
- Total Airplane cost **\$327,979**
- Camera cost - **\$332,029** – High definition, night vision equipped with a long range scope. A high quality camera is essential for the program to be successful

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Operational Costs approximate




<h3>Flight Design</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flight costs = \$65 per hour (<small>\$50-65 per hour</small>) • Includes fuel, maintenance, insurance ect • Weekly costs based on 5 hours per day 5 days per week = \$ 1,625 • Monthly costs = \$ 6,987 • Annual costs = \$ 84,500 	<h3>Helicopter</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flight Costs = \$650 per hour • Includes fuel, maintenance, insurance ect • Weekly costs based on 5 hours per day 5 days per week = \$ 16,250 • Monthly costs = \$ 69,875 • Annual costs = \$ 845,000
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Contracting for service would cost \$185,000 more in one year than the cost of the plane.

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Funding Sources



- Supplemental Law Enforcement Funds
 - Annual Grant varies in amount
- State Asset Forfeiture funds
- Traffic Safety Fund
- "General Fund"
 - Funds earmarked are from end of the year refund of unspent SDEA annual budget

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Can we hire officers with the funds?



- Unfortunately - NO
- Funds are one time monies that will not pay for ongoing personnel costs
- Rules for SLSEF, Traffic Safety and Asset Forfeiture Funds are restricted to equipment or overtime purchases

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Other Questions



- Why don't we contract for the services?
 - The operating costs for contracting the service would exceed the cost of the plane in the first year.
- The county already provides this service for free why are you duplicating services?
 - Although the county does provide some air coverage to the city, the city does not have regular dedicated coverage that is proactively checking parks, business districts, calls for service and predictive policing boxes. If the county is willing to provide all those services for the operating costs of this program, I would be happy contract for the service. However the county would lose approximately \$700,000 per year doing so.

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Questions continued



- Why not buy a drone or multiple drones?
 - The FAA has not approved commercial drone use for law enforcement and we would need to obtain a permit from the FAA
 - Civil Liberty groups have already tried to ban the use of drones by law enforcement
 - The police department is trying to provide proactive air support rather than reactive support such as launching a drone for a perimeter search.

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Questions cont'd



- Is this the "appropriate" platform to fly over Modesto?
 - Tulare County has been using this aircraft very successfully for several years with no issues
 - The aircraft has an excellent safety record
 - Not being an expert in aircraft, a presentation was given to the Airport Advisory Board, which is made up of pilots to obtain their thoughts on the "appropriateness" of the platform and we were advised the plane would be very suitable for our mission.

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Opportunity



- The Flight Design CTLEi Aircraft provides a unique opportunity
 - One time funding / unable to use for hiring personnel
 - A safe and reliable aircraft platform
 - Modern technology
 - Low operating costs
 - A proven track record of success in law enforcement