



Legislative Report

2021 Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

June 15, 2022

Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
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<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca>

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Introduction

Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 82, section 5, subdivision 12a-b requires all law enforcement agencies that maintain or use an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), also known a drone, to report the following data by January 15 regarding the prior calendar year to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS):

- The number of times a UAV was deployed without a search warrant.
- The date of each deployment.
- The authorized use for each deployment (see [Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 82](#), section 5, subdivision 3).
- The total cost of the agency's UAV program.

This report fulfills the further requirement that DPS compile the data into a report for the legislature to be posted on the department's website.

Background

Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 82, was signed into law on May 16, 2020.

The BCA developed and provided a submittal form to law enforcement agencies in August 2020 that enables law enforcement agencies that maintain or use an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to report the data required by statute in a uniform manner.

The information provided to and compiled by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) in this report covers the reporting period January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

Summary Data

Agency Type and Total Uses without a Search Warrant

- Sheriff's departments: 42
- Police departments: 32
- Other (State Patrol, BCA and Cannon River Task Force): 3

Total agencies reporting: 76

Total uses without a search warrant: 2,265

In 2021, Minnesota law enforcement agencies reported a total of 2,265 on UAV uses without a warrant. That is up 93.4% from the 1,171 reported in 2020. Information on individual agency uses are provided below.

Program Costs

In 2021, Minnesota law enforcement agencies spent a total of \$380,740.96 on UAV agency programs. That is down 58.7% from the \$922,410.71 total in 2020. Information on individual agency costs are provided later in this report.

By-Agency UAV Use

Name of law enforcement agency	ORI Number	Cost of UAV program for calendar year	Number of times UAV used w/out warrant
Albert Lea Police Department	MN0240100	15,569.00	2
Anoka County Sheriff	MN0020000	19,346.00	61
Austin Police Department	MN0500100	0.00	28
Baxter Police Department	MN0180500	0.00	4
Becker County Sheriff	MN0030000	11,000.00	3
Beltrami County Sheriff	MN0040000	500.00	14
Benton County Sheriff	MN0050000	7,290.96	26
Big Lake Police Department	MN0710100	0.00	34
Big Stone County Sheriff	MN0060000	0.00	14
Bloomington Police Department	MN0270100	7,457.00	44
Blue Earth County Sheriff	MN0700000	0.00	12
Brown County Sheriff	MN0080000	0.00	5

Name of law enforcement agency	ORI Number	Cost of UAV program for calendar year	Number of times UAV used w/out warrant
Cannon River Drug and Violent Offender Task Force		8,112.00	19
Carlton County Sheriff	MN0090000	2,370.33	5
Cass County Sheriff	MN0110000	11,176.50	6
Chisago County Sheriff	MN0130000	5,537.99	79
Clay County Sheriff	MN0140000	2,370.00	0
Colombia Heights Police Department	MN0020400	2,000.00	25
Coon Rapids Police Department	MN0020500	1,000.00	36
Cottage Grove Police Department	MN0820700	2,907.64	23
Crow Wing County Sheriff	MN0180000	9.25	24
Crystal Police Department	MN0270400	1,800.00	30
Dakota County Sheriff	MN0190000	5,799.00	55
Douglas County Sheriff	MN0210000	0.00	23
Duluth Police Department	MN0690000	6,709.00	4
Eagan Police Department	MN0190800	20,144.00	56
Eden Prairie Police Department	MN0272600	43,301.95	37
Edina Police Department	MN0270600	16,102.80	172
Faribault County Sheriff	MN0220000	0.00	10
Freeborn County Sheriff	MN0240000	355.00	20
Fridley Police Department	MN0020600	0.00	5
Golden Valley Police Department	MN0270800	5,000.00	29
Goodhue County Sheriff	MN0250100	1,931.11	4
Grant County Sheriff	MN0260000	6,908.00	2
Hennepin County Sheriff	MN0270000	12,000.00	34
Isanti County Sheriff	MN0300000	2,875.04	33
Kandiyohi County Sheriff	MN0340000	600.00	17
Lake County Sheriff	MN0380000	6,969.00	6
Marshall Police Department	MN0420100	6,000.00	4
McLeod County Sheriff	MN0430000	5,000.00	20
Mille Lacs County Sheriff	MN0480000	380.00	35
Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department	MNDIO2400	5,927.00	2
Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension	MNBCA0000	8,500.00	21
Minnesota State Patrol	MNMHP2000	21,841.70	257
Morrison County Sheriff	MN0490000	0.00	19
Nicollet County Sheriff	MN0520000	2,201.33	9
Olmsted County Sheriff	MN0550000	5,000.00	2
Orono Police Department	MN0271500	528.00	57

Name of law enforcement agency	ORI Number	Cost of UAV program for calendar year	Number of times UAV used w/out warrant
Ottertail County Sheriff Office	MN0560000	3,500.00	18
Owatonna Police Department	MN0740100	5,000.00	13
Pine County Sheriff	MN0580000	6,860.70	18
Pipestone County Sheriff	MN0590000	3,000.00	15
Plymouth Police Department	MN0271700	8,000.00	213
Polk County Sheriff	MN0600000	4,377.45	21
Pope County Sheriff	MN0610000	5,000.00	24
Prior Lake Police Department	MN0700900	0.00	11
Redwood County Sheriff	MN0640000	0.00	12
Renville County Sheriff	MN0650000	840.99	23
Rice County Sheriff	MN0660000	355.00	12
Rice Police Department	MN0503000	70.00	2
Rochester Police Department	MN0550100	10,010.41	20
Saint Cloud Police Department	MN0730400	4,000.00	96
Sauk Centre Police Department	MN0730500	0.00	8
Sauk Rapids Police Department	MN0050200	0.00	47
Sherburne County Sheriff	MN0710000	0.00	33
St. Louis County Sheriff	MN0690000	12,471.34	60
Todd County Sheriff	MN0770000	8,635.47	27
Upper Sioux Police Department	MNDI02300	0.00	3
Wadena County Sheriff	MN0800000	8,086.00	26
Wadena Police Department	MN0800100	6,000.00	4
Waseca County Sheriff	MN0810000	114.00	12
Washington County Sheriff	MN8200000	2,300.00	28
Willmar Police Department	MN0340100	0.00	28
Woodbury Police Department	MN0821100	600.00	40
Wright County Sheriff	MN0860000	5,000.00	15
Yellow Medicine County Sheriff	MN0870000	5,000.00	9
Totals		381,740.96	2,265

Agency Data Submissions

The remaining portion of this report contains the reason codes law enforcement agencies provided for incidents where a UAV was used without a warrant.

Reason Code	Reason
1	During or in the aftermath of an emergency situation that involves the risk of death or bodily harm to a person.
2	Over a public event where there is a heightened risk to the safety of participants or bystanders.
3	To counter the risk of a terrorist attack by a specific individual or organization if the agency determines that credible intelligence indicates a risk.
4	To prevent the loss of life and property in natural or man-made disasters and to facilitate operational planning, rescue, and recovery operations in the aftermath of these disasters.
5	To conduct a threat assessment in anticipation of a specific event.
6	To collect information from a public area if there is reasonable suspicion of criminal activity.
7	To collect information for crash reconstruction purposes after a serious or deadly collision occurring on a public road.
8	Over a public area for officer training or public relations purposes.
9	For purposes unrelated to law enforcement at the request of a government entity provided that the government entity makes the request in writing to the law enforcement agency and specifies the reason for the request and proposed period of use.

By-Agency UAV Use Reason

Name of law enforcement agency	Reason code 1	Reason code 2	Reason code 3	Reason code 4	Reason code 5	Reason code 6	Reason code 7	Reason code 8	Reason code 9
Albert Lea Police Department								2	
Anoka County Sheriff	12			1		42		6	
Arlington Police Department									
Austin Police Department	1			4		4	1	18	
Baxter Police Department	3							1	
Becker County Sheriff	1							2	
Beltrami County Sheriff	10						1	3	
Benton County Sheriff	7					4	3	12	

Name of law enforcement agency	Reason code 1	Reason code 2	Reason code 3	Reason code 4	Reason code 5	Reason code 6	Reason code 7	Reason code 8	Reason code 9
Big Lake Police Department	13							21	
Big Stone County Sheriff				1				13	
Bloomington Police Department	18					2			24
Blue Earth County Sheriff	6							3	3
Brown County Sheriff	2	1				1		1	
Caledonia Police Department									
Cambridge Police Department									
Cannon River Drug and Violent Offender Task Force	8	1				2	1	6	1
Carlton County Sheriff								5	
Cass County Sheriff	1						1	4	
Chisago County Sheriff	6				2	4	2	64	1
Clay County Sheriff									
Colombia Heights Police Department	1					10		11	3
Coon Rapids Police Department	20	2		2		1		11	
Cottage Grove Police Department	10	2		1		9		1	
Crow Wing County Sheriff	15						1	8	
Crystal Police Department	17							13	
Dakota County Sheriff	11	1			1	7		35	
Douglas County Sheriff						10	1	10	2
Duluth Police Department						4			
Eagan Police Department	3	1				19		33	

Name of law enforcement agency	Reason code 1	Reason code 2	Reason code 3	Reason code 4	Reason code 5	Reason code 6	Reason code 7	Reason code 8	Reason code 9
Eden Prairie Police Department	15				3	3		16	
Edina Police Department	33					23		116	
Faribault County Sheriff	4			1				5	
Fisher Police Department									
Freeborn County Sheriff	7			4				9	
Fridley Police Department	5								
Golden Valley Police Department	5							23	1
Goodhue County Sheriff	2					1		1	
Grant County Sheriff	2								
Hennepin County Sheriff	17							17	
Isanti County Sheriff	4			1	1	8	1	18	
Kandiyohi County Sheriff	8					2	4	3	
Lake County Sheriff				1		1		4	
Marshall Police Department	3							1	
McLeod County Sheriff	9	1					6	4	
Mille Lacs County Sheriff	14			1		1	6	13	
Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department						2			
Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension								21	
Minnesota State Patrol							204	53	
Morrison County Sheriff	3					8	1	3	4
Nicollet County Sheriff	2			2		1	1	3	
Olmsted County Sheriff							2		

Name of law enforcement agency	Reason code 1	Reason code 2	Reason code 3	Reason code 4	Reason code 5	Reason code 6	Reason code 7	Reason code 8	Reason code 9
Orono Police Department	9					6		42	
Ottertail County Sheriff	9			1			4	1	3
Owatonna Police Department				1	1			8	3
Pine County Sheriff	5			12		1			
Pipestone County Sheriff	4			1			1	9	
Plymouth Police Department	33	3					9	168	
Polk County Sheriff	6					1		14	
Pope County Sheriff	2							21	1
Prior Lake Police Department	6					5			
Redwood County Sheriff	1					1		1	9
Renville County Sheriff	9							14	
Rice County Sheriff	1				2			8	1
Rice Police Department								2	
Rochester Police Department	2				9		1	8	
Saint Cloud Police Department	24	8		2	1	24	3	34	
Sauk Centre Police Department	7			1					
Sauk Rapids Police Department	5					6		36	
Sherburne County Sheriff	7					7		19	
St. Louis County Sheriff	29			3		11	1	15	1
Todd County Sheriff	4				1	6	8	3	5

Name of law enforcement agency	Reason code 1	Reason code 2	Reason code 3	Reason code 4	Reason code 5	Reason code 6	Reason code 7	Reason code 8	Reason code 9
Upper Sioux Police Department						1		2	
Wadena County Sheriff	10			3	8		1		4
Wadena Police Department	2							2	
Waseca County Sheriff	2			1		2		7	
Washington County Sheriff	17							11	
Willmar Police Department	8				4	1	1	5	9
Woodbury Police Department	11					13		15	1
Wright County Sheriff	1			1			13		
Yellow Medicine County Sheriff						3	2	4	
Totals	512	20	0	45	33	257	280	1,042	76

Agency Data Submission Form

Below is the form used by agencies for UAV data submissions to the BCA.



UAV Agency Data Collection Form

Minnesota Statutes §626.19

Please fill out this form as completely as possible.

Agency Information

Name of Law Enforcement Agency	Originating Agency Identifier (ORI)

UAV Program Data for Calendar Year

Calendar Year of Submission	Cost of UAV Program for Calendar Year	Number of Times UAVs Deployed Without Warrant

Uses of UAVs Without Warrant

For each deployment of a UAV without a search warrant, provide the following on the second page of this form:

- date of the deployment
- statutory reason for the deployment

If you require space for additional entries, submit additional copies of this form.

The reasons for a UAV deployment without a search warrant allowed by statute are provided below:

Reason Code	Reason
1	during or in the aftermath of an emergency situation that involves the risk of death or bodily harm to a person
2	over a public event where there is a heightened risk to the safety of participants or bystanders
3	to counter the risk of a terrorist attack by a specific individual or organization if the agency determines that credible intelligence indicates a risk
4	to prevent the loss of life and property in natural or man-made disasters and to facilitate operational planning, rescue, and recovery operations in the aftermath of these disasters
5	to conduct a threat assessment in anticipation of a specific event
6	to collect information from a public area if there is reasonable suspicion of criminal activity
7	to collect information for crash reconstruction purposes after a serious or deadly collision occurring on a public road
8	over a public area for officer training or public relations purposes
9	for purposes unrelated to law enforcement at the request of a government entity provided that the government entity makes the request in writing to the law enforcement agency and specifies the reason for the request and proposed period of use

This form must be submitted to the BCA no later than January 15 of each calendar year.

To submit the form, click the button below or email the completed form to BCA.UAV.Submit@state.mn.us.

[Submit completed form to BCA via email](#)

MN.JIS-F-5039
v1.01 (011221)

#	Deployment Date	Reason Code	#	Deployment Date	Reason Code	#	Deployment Date	Reason Code	#	Deployment Date	Reason Code
1		Sal	26		Sal	61		Sal	76		Sal
2		Sal	27		Sal	62		Sal	77		Sal
3		Sal	28		Sal	63		Sal	78		Sal
4		Sal	29		Sal	64		Sal	79		Sal
5		Sal	30		Sal	65		Sal	80		Sal
6		Sal	31		Sal	66		Sal	81		Sal
7		Sal	32		Sal	67		Sal	82		Sal
8		Sal	33		Sal	68		Sal	83		Sal
9		Sal	34		Sal	69		Sal	84		Sal
10		Sal	35		Sal	70		Sal	85		Sal
11		Sal	36		Sal	71		Sal	86		Sal
12		Sal	37		Sal	72		Sal	87		Sal
13		Sal	38		Sal	73		Sal	88		Sal
14		Sal	39		Sal	74		Sal	89		Sal
15		Sal	40		Sal	75		Sal	90		Sal
16		Sal	41		Sal				91		Sal
17		Sal	42		Sal				92		Sal
18		Sal	43		Sal				93		Sal
19		Sal	44		Sal				94		Sal
20		Sal	45		Sal				95		Sal
21		Sal	46		Sal				96		Sal
22		Sal	47		Sal				97		Sal
23		Sal	48		Sal				98		Sal
24		Sal	49		Sal				99		Sal
25		Sal	50		Sal				100		Sal

MN.JS-F-5039
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