

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of

SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE,

Applicant,

Requesting Disbursement from the
Grade Crossing Protective Fund

DOCKET TR-220736

ORDER 02

GRANTING AMENDED REQUEST
FOR DISBURSEMENT FROM THE
GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE
FUND

BACKGROUND

- 1 On August 2, 2021, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) sent to various interested parties a “Notice of Available Funds for Rail Safety Projects” from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF).
- 2 On September 30, 2022, South King Fire & Rescue (South King Fire or Applicant) filed with the Commission an application (Application) requesting \$27,733.96 from the GCPF to purchase two Autel Robotics Evo II aerial drones for use by the Applicant’s hazardous materials unit (Hazmat 361) in response to railroad accidents in the Auburn Valley. Commission staff (Staff) evaluated the Application and recommended that the Commission provide funding for one drone at a cost of \$13,866.98.
- 3 On January 26, 2023, the Commission issued an order approving the request for disbursement from the GCPF in the amount of \$13,866.98.
- 4 On February 22, 2023, the Applicant requested to amend its Application to substitute a newer Autel Evo Max drone package for the Autel Robotics Evo II package specified in the original Application. According to the Applicant, the Autel Evo Max is an improvement over the equipment initially specified and is available at a lower cost of \$12,156.76.
- 5 Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Applicant’s request and the revised total grant amount.

DISCUSSION

6 RCW 81.53.281 authorizes the Commission to disburse funds from the GCPF to pay for
rail safety projects. We find that the proposed drone purchase will assist first responders
in assessing rail incidents and will increase public safety, and that substitution of the
Autel Evo Max drone for the Autel EVO II drone specified in Order 01 is appropriate.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

7 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington having authority to
approve and administer disbursements from the GCPF. RCW 81.53.271; RCW
81.53.281.

8 (2) The purchase for which the Applicant seeks disbursement from the GCPF is
eligible for funding consideration under Commission rules and complies with the
requirements of RCW 81.53.271, RCW 81.53.281, and WAC 480-62.

9 (3) After reviewing the amendment to the Petition filed by South King Fire & Rescue
on February 22, 2023, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause
shown, the Commission grants the request for substitution of drone hardware and a
revised total grant amount of \$12,156.76.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

10 South King Fire & Rescue's amendment to its Application for disbursement from the
Grade Crossing Protective Fund to purchase a drone for its hazardous materials unit is
granted subject to the following conditions:

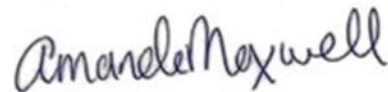
- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed
\$12,156.76.
- (2) The purchase for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was
approved must conform to the description specified in the amended Application.
- (3) South King Fire & Rescue must sign and return the attached revised project
agreement.

- (4) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement and verification by Staff that the purchase has been completed.
- (5) The purchase must be completed and the associated request for reimbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must be filed with the Commission no later than June 15, 2023.

11 The Secretary of the Commission has delegated authority over this matter pursuant to Order 01 in Docket A-180762. The Secretary finds this Order to be consistent with the public interest.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective March 17, 2023.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary

NOTICE TO PARTIES: This is an order delegated to the Executive Secretary for decision. As authorized in WAC 480-07-904, you must file any request for Commission review of this order no later than 14 days after the date the decision is posted on the Commission's website.