



Legislative Report

2023 Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

June 14, 2024

Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
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St. Paul, MN 55106
651-793-7000

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca>

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Background	3
Summary Data	4
Agency Type and Total Uses in circumstances where a warrant is not required	4
Program Costs	4
By-Agency UAV Use	5
Agency Data Submissions	8
By-Agency UAV Use Reason	8
Agency Data Submission Form	12

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 as a drone, to report the following data by Jan. 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 [Minnesota Statute § 626.19, 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 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 Jan. 1, 2023, through Dec. 31, 2023.

Summary data

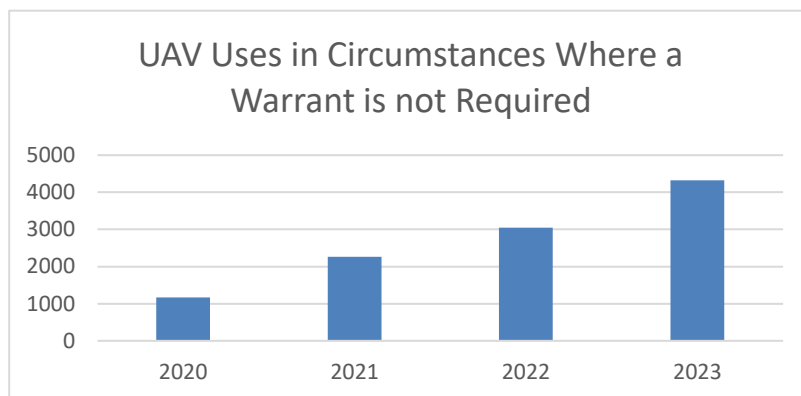
Agency type and total uses in circumstances where a warrant is not required

- Sheriff's departments: 51
- Police departments: 45
- Other (State Patrol, BCA and Cannon River Task Force): 3

Total agencies reporting: **99**

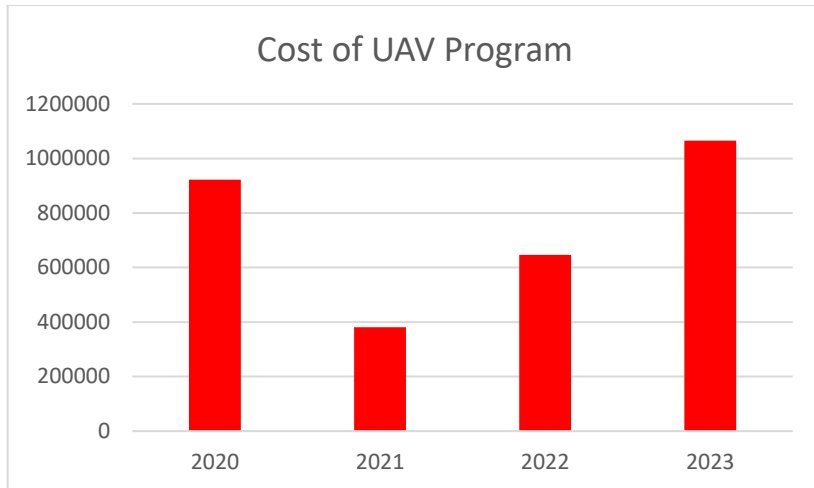
Total uses without a search warrant: **4,326**

In 2023, Minnesota law enforcement agencies reported a total of 4,326 UAV uses in circumstances where a warrant is not required. That is up 41 percent from the 3,076 reported in 2022. Information on individual agency uses are provided below in summary and later in the report for each reason code.



Program costs

In 2023, Minnesota law enforcement agencies spent a total of \$1,065,677.32 on UAV agency programs. That is up 65 percent from the \$646,531.24 total in 2022. Information on individual agency costs are provided below.



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	\$119.97	7
Anoka County Sheriff	MN0020000	\$13,337.00	243
Austin Police Department	MN0500100	\$3,772.00	11
Becker County Sheriff	MN0030000	\$500.00	23
Beltrami County Sheriff	MN0040000	\$364.56	4
Benton County Sheriff	MN0050000	\$442.00	7
Big Lake Police Department	MN0710100	\$199.00	24
Big Stone County Sheriff	MN0060000	\$308.98	10
Blaine Police Department	MN0020200	\$18,963.34	35
Bloomington Police Department	MN0270100	\$7,990.00	51
Blue Earth County Sheriff	MN0700000	\$27,941.00	23
Brooklyn Park Police Department	MN0270300	\$54,063.35	122
Brown County Sheriff	MN0080000	\$0.00	1
Cannon River Drug and Violent Offender Task Force		\$1,370.00	15
Carlton County Sheriff	MN0090000	\$7,067.00	31
Cass County Sheriff	MN0110000	\$15,201.00	28
Champlin Police Department	MN0272900	\$3,631.49	44
Chanassen Police Department	MN0100100	\$0.00	2
Chippewa County Sheriff	MN0120000	\$500.00	11
Chisago County Sheriff	MN0130000	\$8,653.92	100
Clay County Sheriff	MN0140000	\$14,066.00	2
Colombia Heights Police Department	MN0020400	\$3,000.00	25
Coon Rapids Police Department	MN0020500	\$7,000.00	118

Name of law enforcement agency	ORI number	Cost of UAV program for calendar year	Number of times UAV used w/out warrant
Cottage Grove Police Department	MN0820700	\$2,422.00	20
Crow Wing County Sheriff	MN0180000	\$15,739.00	39
Crystal Police Department	MN0270400	\$2,253.11	29
Dakota County Sheriff	MN0190000	\$18,154.00	74
Dodge County Sheriff	MN0200000	\$6,400.00	30
Douglas County Sheriff	MN0210000	\$10,500.00	19
Eagan Police Department	MN0190800	\$5,000.00	127
Eden Prairie Police Department	MN0272600	\$14,369.78	53
Edina Police Department	MN0270600	\$748.00	83
Elk River Police Department	MN0710200	\$1,684.00	28
Faribault County Sheriff	MN0220000	\$0.00	2
Faribault Police Department	MN0660100	\$8,165.00	21
Fridley Police Department	MN0020600	\$0.00	4
Golden Valley Police Department	MN0270800	\$10,920.00	20
Goodhue County Sheriff	MN0250100	\$8,257.07	17
Grant County Sheriff	MN0260000	\$0.00	4
Hennepin County Sheriff	MN0270000	\$7,000.00	142
Hubbard County Sheriff	MN0290000	\$7,000.00	1
Isanti County Sheriff	MN0300000	\$500.00	13
Itasca County Sheriff	MN0310000	\$0.00	9
Kandiyohi County Sheriff	MN0340000	\$1,000.00	10
Lake County Sheriff	MN0380000	\$2,500.00	3
Leech Lake Tribal Police Department	MNDI00500	\$0.00	7
Lino Lakes Department of Public Safety	MN0020700	\$21,235.35	11
Maple Grove Police Department	MN0272700	\$2,150.00	99
Maplewood Public Safety	MN0620400	\$9,036.92	79
Marshall Police Department	MN0420100	\$5,000.00	3
McLeod County Sheriff	MN0430000	\$7,657.00	10
Meeker County Sheriff	MN0470000	\$27,953.64	8
Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department	MNDI02400	\$53,654.00	35
Minneapolis Police Department	MN02711C2	\$97,810.00	63
Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension	MNBCA0000	\$9,000.00	27
Minnesota State Patrol	MNMHP2000	\$124,712.87	511
Morrison County Sheriff	MN0490000	\$0.00	9
New Brighton Department of Public Safety	MN0620600	\$7,040.08	96
New Ulm Police Department	MN0080100	\$81.25	2
Nicollet County Sheriff	MN0520000	\$702.00	7
North St. Paul Police Department	MN0620700	\$19,300.06	12
Olmsted County Sheriff	MN0550000	\$5,000.00	10
Orono Police Department	MN0271500	\$734.95	59
Ottertail County Sheriff	MN0560000	\$3,500.00	25

Name of law enforcement agency	ORI number	Cost of UAV program for calendar year	Number of times UAV used w/out warrant
Owatonna Police Department	MN0740100	\$0.00	11
Pine County Sheriff	MN0580000	\$17,157.06	34
Plymouth Police Department	MN0271700	\$2,000.00	0
Polk County Sheriff	MN0600000	\$13,500.00	12
Pope County Sheriff	MN0610000	\$5,000.00	11
Ramsey County Sheriff	MN0620000	\$17,723.05	333
Red Lake County	MN0630000	\$150.00	13
Redwood County Sheriff	MN0640000	\$0.00	13
Renville County Sheriff	MN0650000	\$1,200.00	7
Rice County Sheriff	MN0660000	\$16,000.00	113
Rice Police Department	MN0503000	\$50.00	8
Rochester Police Department	MN0550100	\$14,832.57	48
Roseville Police Department	MN0620800	\$20,000.00	68
Sauk Centre Police Department	MN0730500	\$7,000.00	9
Sauk Rapids Police Department	MN0050200	\$12,461.00	28
Scott County Sheriff	MN0700000	\$8,032.33	17
Sherburne County Sheriff	MN0710000	\$12,345.00	44
St. Cloud Police Department	MN0730400	\$26,060.00	168
St. Francis Police Department	MN0021500	\$1,000.00	16
St. Louis Park Police Department	MN0272100	\$0.00	17
St. Louis County Sheriff	MN0690000	\$6,642.83	60
St. Paul Police Department	MN0620900	\$100,000.00	255
Stearns County Sheriff	MN0730000	\$19,550.00	87
Stevens County Sheriff	MN0750000	\$300.00	2
Todd County Sheriff	MN0770000	\$1,496.00	22
Wadena County Sheriff	MN0800000	\$4,540.00	22
Wadena Police Department	MN0800100	\$0.00	0
Washington County Sheriff	MN8200000	\$1,800.00	77
White Bear Lake Police Department	MN0621000	\$22,869.49	19
Willmar Police Department	MN0340100	\$8,663.30	20
Windom Police Department	MN0170200	\$9,000.00	8
Winona County Sheriff	MN0850000	\$0.00	6
Woodbury Police Department	MN0821100	\$634.00	0
Wright County Sheriff	MN0860000	\$10,000.00	13
Yellow Medicine County Sheriff	MN0870000	\$0.00	7
Totals		\$1,065,677.32	4,326

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	1							6	
Anoka County Sheriff	53		3			66		121	
Austin Police Department	6							2	3
Becker County Sheriff	9	2	1	1		4	1	4	1
Beltrami County Sheriff	4								
Benton County Sheriff	3					2	1	1	
Big Lake Police Department	12					5		7	
Big Stone County Sheriff	3							7	
Blaine Police Department	4			2				29	
Bloomington Police Department	9					20	7	15	
Blue Earth County Sheriff	7							13	3
Brooklyn Park Police Department	16					13	2	91	
Brown County Sheriff	1								
Cannon River Drug and Violent Offender Task Force	6							9	

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
Carlton County Sheriff	2			3				8	18
Cass County Sheriff	12					1		11	4
Champlin Police Department	6					21		17	
Chanhasen Police Department		1				1			
Chippewa County Sheriff	3					1	1	6	
Chisago County Sheriff	12		1		3	3		79	2
Clay County Sheriff	2								
Colombia Heights Police Department	2							23	
Coon Rapids Police Department	43	2	0	1	2	22	2		46
Cottage Grove Police Department		15						5	
Crow Wing County Sheriff	35	1						3	
Crystal Police Department	18							11	
Dakota County Sheriff	15			2	1	13	1	42	
Dodge County Sheriff	7					1	1	19	2
Douglas County Sheriff	6							13	
Eagan Police Department	37	2		1		20		66	1
Eden Prairie Police Department	5					19		24	5
Edina Police Department						15		68	
Elk River Police Department	5				1	8		14	
Faribault County Sheriff	1							1	
Faribault Police Department	2	1				3	1	14	
Fridley Police Department	4								
Golden Valley Police Department	1					1		18	
Goodhue County Sheriff	5		4			1		7	
Grant County Sheriff	3								1
Hennepin County Sheriff	48							94	
Hubbard County Sheriff						1			
Isanti County Sheriff	8			1		4			
Itasca County Sheriff				9					
Kandiyohi County Sheriff	2				1	1	4	2	
Lake County Sheriff	2					1			
Leech Lake Tribal Police Department	2					5			
Lino Lakes Department of Public Safety	8	1				1		1	
Maple Grove Police Department	16							83	
Maplewood Public Safety	58	1				6		14	
Marshall Police Department	3								

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
McLeod County Sheriff	9								1
Meeker County Sheriff						1		7	
Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department	30						2	3	
Minneapolis Police Department	33			1	2	2	25		
Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension	5					3		19	
Minnesota State Patrol	1			1			432	77	
Morrison County Sheriff	2	1				3			3
New Brighton Department of Public Safety	15	1		1		18		61	
New Ulm Police Department	2								
Nicollet County Sheriff	2					3		2	
North St. Paul Police Department		1						11	
Olmsted County Sheriff	6						3		1
Orono Police Department	1							58	
Ottertail County Sheriff	13			1		2		8	1
Owatonna Police Department				3		1	1	5	1
Pine County Sheriff	19			7			1	7	
Plymouth Police Department									
Polk County Sheriff	3							1	8
Pope County Sheriff	3	1		2				5	
Ramsey County Sheriff	47	19					77	189	1
Red Lake County				3			3	7	
Redwood County Sheriff					8		5		
Renville County Sheriff	4			1		1		1	
Rice County Sheriff	29							83	1
Rice Police Department								8	
Rochester Police Department	11	2			22	12		1	
Roseville Police Department	29					7		32	
Sauk Centre Police Department	4					3		2	
Sauk Rapids Police Department	4			1		3		20	
Scott County Sheriff	13							3	1
Sherburne County Sheriff	11			3		2	2	26	
St. Cloud Police Department	28	9		2	1	31	7	90	
St. Francis Police Department	2	1				3		10	
St. Louis County Sheriff	27			1		12	7	12	1
St. Louis Park Police Department								8	9

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
St. Paul Police Department	96	1			3	4		149	2
Stearns County Sheriff	19					2	4	55	7
Stevens County Sheriff						2			
Todd County Sheriff	1			2		9	1	8	1
Wadena County Sheriff	13			4	1	1	1	1	1
Wadena Police Department									
Washington County Sheriff	18	2		7		9		41	
White Bear Lake Police Department	3							16	
Willmar Police Department	5	1				5	2	7	
Windom Police Department	6						2		
Winona County Sheriff	5							1	
Woodbury Police Department									
Wright County Sheriff	4			1			7		1
Yellow Medicine County Sheriff	1				2			4	
Totals	1,031	65	9	61	47	398	603	1,986	126

Agency data submission form

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



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

MINIS-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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