

Bulletin Two - Nevada Office of Emergency Management

Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Southern Nevada Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Investments Guidance

Dear Nevada Stakeholders,

The following guidance establishes requirements governing the use of Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funds approved for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), drone related equipment, supporting technology, software, infrastructure, and associated capabilities within the Clark/Las Vegas Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) beginning with Federal Fiscal Year 2026 grant awards.

The intent of this guidance is to ensure that UASI funded UAS investments are developed as coordinated regional homeland security capabilities.

Background

Consistent with direction provided during the July 15, 2026, Nevada Homeland Security (Commission) meeting, UAS investments shall be coordinated through the Southern Nevada UAS/Counter UAS Working Group and aligned with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center (SNCTC) Drone as First Responder (DFR) program and Drone Operations Center.

As a condition of expenditure of FFY 2026 and future UASI funds for UAS-related equipment or capabilities within the Clark County/Las Vegas MSA, the subrecipient shall comply with technical and operational requirements established by the Southern Nevada UAS/Counter UAS Working Group. All acquisitions shall be complementary to and coordinated with the LVMPD SNCTC DFR program and Drone Operations Center. No UASI-funded UAS purchases may proceed until the proposed acquisition has been reviewed for consistency with these regional requirements.

Applicability

This guidance applies to all FFY 2026 and future UASI subrecipients within the Las Vegas MSA using UASI funds for the acquisition, implementation, enhancement, or integration of:

- unmanned aircraft;
- UAS command and control systems;
- docking or remote launch systems;
- aerial sensors, cameras, payloads, or related accessories;
- UAS software, licenses, data management platforms, or communications systems;
- infrastructure supporting Drone as First Responder operations;
- UAS detection, counter UAS, or airspace awareness capabilities, when otherwise eligible under the grant; and
- equipment or services necessary to integrate a jurisdictional UAS capability into a regional operating environment.

These requirements apply regardless of whether the UAS investment is contained within a stand-alone project or is one component of a larger UASI funded project.



Regional Coordination Requirement

No UASI funded UAS investment in Southern Nevada shall be implemented as an independent or standalone capability without regional coordination.

Each funded jurisdiction shall participate in and coordinate its UAS investment through the Southern Nevada UAS/Counter UAS Working Group.

The Working Group shall serve as the regional technical and operational coordination body for UASI funded UAS investments and shall develop the detailed requirements governing systems and equipment that may be purchased with UASI funds.

At a minimum, the Working Group shall establish requirements addressing:

1. approved or acceptable system architectures;
2. aircraft and equipment interoperability;
3. command and control and communications compatibility;
4. data, video, and information sharing requirements;
5. cybersecurity requirements;
6. integration with regional operating platforms;
7. remote launch and docking system compatibility;
8. maintenance, sustainment, licensing, and lifecycle considerations;
9. training and operator qualification expectations;
10. airspace management and operational coordination;
11. information retention, evidence management, and privacy considerations, as applicable;
12. common purchasing or procurement opportunities;
13. tethered drone operations and data sharing;
14. avoidance of unnecessary duplication of regional capabilities; and
15. any additional technical or operational standards necessary to support an integrated Southern Nevada UAS capability.

The Working Group may establish an approved equipment list consistent with DHS / FEMA procurement requirements and restrictions, minimum technical specifications, coordination standards, common configurations, or other procurement requirements that meet applicable procurement rules as appropriate.

Alignment with the SNCTC Drone as First Responder Program

All UASI funded UAS purchases and capabilities shall be complementary to, coordinated with, and designed to collaborate with the LVMPD SNCTC DFR program and associated Drone Operations Center.¹

This requirement does not transfer ownership or operational control of a participating jurisdiction's aircraft or personnel to LVMPD. Participating jurisdictions may retain responsibility for their approved projects, equipment, operators, and missions. However, the architecture and implementation of those projects must support the broader regional system and shall not impair coordination or integrated operations.

¹ The July 15, 2026, Commission discussion specifically recognized that the Henderson and North Las Vegas projects would remain jurisdictionally administered while operating collaboratively with the SNCTC and Drone Operations Center.



Working Group Review Prior to Purchase

Before a subrecipient makes a UASI funded UAS purchase or enters into a contract for a covered system, the subrecipient shall provide sufficient information to the Southern Nevada UAS/Counter UAS Working Group to demonstrate compliance with regional requirements.

The review should include, as applicable:

- proposed manufacturer, model, and configuration;
- proposed mission or operational use;
- quantity and deployment locations;
- communications and network architecture;
- software and licensing requirements;
- docking, DFR, or tethered infrastructure;
- cybersecurity characteristics;
- data sharing and information management capabilities;
- coordination with the SNCTC DFR program;
- acquisition and recurring costs;
- expected useful life and replacement cycle;
- ongoing maintenance and sustainment costs;
- planned non-HSGP funding source for sustainment beyond the grant period;
- training requirements; and
- explanation of how the investment fills a regional capability requirement.

The Working Group shall document whether the proposed purchase:

- A. Conforms to established regional requirements;
- B. Conforms with conditions that must be addressed before implementation; or
- C. Does not conform and should be revised before UASI funds are expended.

Procurement and Purchasing Coordination

Where multiple jurisdictions require similar UAS equipment or services, the Southern Nevada UAS/Counter UAS Working Group should evaluate opportunities for coordinated purchasing, standardized configurations, common licensing, shared infrastructure, or other approaches that increase purchasing power and reduce lifecycle costs.

This requirement reflects the Commission's discussion regarding significant price differences among UAS systems and the potential benefit of using the region's collective purchasing power to obtain more favorable pricing.

Individual subrecipients remain responsible for complying with all applicable federal, state, local, and grant procurement requirements.

Working Group concurrence regarding technical or operational suitability does not replace required procurement procedures or constitute approval of a specific vendor.



Regional Benefit

UASI funded UAS investments shall demonstrate a homeland security benefit as well as a regional benefit.

Projects should:

- expand or enhance an identified regional capability;
- improve the ability of participating jurisdictions to conduct coordinated operations;
- support regional situational awareness;
- provide capabilities that can be made available during major incidents or homeland security events; and
- minimize duplication of equipment, infrastructure, software, and recurring expenses.

Where an existing SNCTC or regional capability can satisfy the operational requirement, subrecipients should prioritize integration with that capability over establishment of a separate system. General or routine standalone law enforcement utility does not constitute sufficient justification for future UASI funding.

Sustainment and Recurring Costs

Because UAS and DFR programs may involve significant continuing costs, subrecipients shall identify expected recurring expenses before procurement, including software licenses, connectivity, maintenance, replacement equipment, personnel, training, storage, and vendor support.²

Approval of UASI funding for initial acquisition shall not be interpreted as a commitment by the State, UASI, or Nevada Commission on Homeland Security to provide continuing grant funding for sustainment or replacement.

Subrecipients shall demonstrate a viable strategy for sustaining capability beyond the initial UASI funded period without reliance on continued Homeland Security Grant Program funding.

UASI funds shall only be used to pay for recurring UAS operating or sustainment costs within the period of performance of the grant award. Recurring costs beyond that period shall be supported through local, program specific, or other non-HSGP funding sources.

Operational Coordination

Recipients of UASI funded UAS capabilities shall participate in regional planning, exercises, training, and coordination activities established by the Southern Nevada UAS/Counter UAS Working Group and SNCTC.

Jurisdictions within the Clark/Las Vegas MSA shall develop procedures that enable their UAS capabilities to contribute to regional operations when appropriate, including major incidents, special events, terrorism related incidents, critical infrastructure protection missions, and other homeland security operations consistent with applicable authorities.

² This provision responds directly to concerns raised during the Commission meeting regarding the long-term cost of UAS programs and whether Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) UASI or State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) funding should routinely sustain such programs.



The Working Group should develop common concepts of operations, activation procedures, resource request processes, information sharing protocols, and other procedures necessary to facilitate coordinated regional employment of UAS resources.

Reporting and Performance Measures

Each UASI funded UAS project shall provide information sufficient for the Nevada Office of Emergency Management / Homeland Security (OEM/HS) and the Urban Area Administrator (UAA) to evaluate the capability and return on investment.

Performance reporting may include:

- systems acquired and placed into service;
- operational availability;
- missions or activations;
- agencies supported;
- response time improvements;
- DFR deployments;
- regional operations supported;
- exercises and training completed;
- interoperability milestones achieved;
- instances of shared or mutual aid utilization;
- avoided duplicative expenditures;
- coordinated purchasing savings; and
- significant operational outcomes attributable to the funded capability.

The Working Group may recommend additional standardized measures so UASI investments can be evaluated consistently across the Urban Area.

Grant Administration

The Southern Nevada UAS/Counter UAS Working Group is responsible for establishing technical, interoperability, and operational requirements for UASI funded UAS investments.

The State Administrative Agency (Nevada OEM/HS) retains responsibility for grant administration, eligibility determinations, financial monitoring, and compliance with applicable grant requirements.

No expenditure may be made solely based on the Working Group's endorsement. Expenditures must also be eligible under federal or state grant requirements and may not violate the United States UAS restricted purchasing lists.

Effective Date and Existing FFY 2026 Awards



This guidance applies to UAS related FFY 2026 UASI investments approved by the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security and to procurement actions that have not yet been completed. This guidance will apply to all future UAS related UASI investments until rescinded or changed.

For approved projects, this guidance is intended to govern implementation and procurement, not to alter the projects approved by the Commission.

This distinction is consistent with the July 15, 2026, meeting record: the Commission ultimately approved the UASI Urban Area Working Group recommendations as presented and without amendment, while separately directing OEM/HS and the applicable working groups to move forward with UAS coordination and related guidance.

Questions?

Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to the NV OEM Grants staff referenced in the table below.

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