



LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM:	Suzanne Sherman, City Manager
THRU:	Richard E. Stover, Fire Chief
DATE:	April 18, 2024
RE:	Consideration of submitting an application to Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) for Phase Five of the Florida Severe Weather Mesonet Project, operated by WeatherSTEM, Inc., for three (3) weather monitoring stations, installation costs, and a three-year equipment maintenance contract for data storage and software development; and consideration of executing a Memorandum of Agreement with FDEM for use of WeatherStem stations.

SUMMARY:

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) will be accepting applications for Phase Five (5) of the Florida Severe Weather Mesonet Project, operated by WeatherSTEM Inc. The purpose of this project is the expansion and sustainment of a statewide mesonet. This funding will provide for the purchase of forty (40) weather monitoring stations, installation costs, and a three-year equipment maintenance contract for data storage and software development, effective on the date of installation of each station. The stations will collect atmospheric data and camera images every minute and upload the vital information to an emergency management dashboard/platform via cellular communications, allowing them to report during severe weather events. The Division's Mesonet Project will prioritize areas that have not previously received stations from earlier phases. Palm Bay Fire Rescue is requesting permission to submit application to FDEM for three (3) of the weather monitoring stations, which includes installation costs, and three-year maintenance contract for data storage and software development for the following locations:

1. Palm Bay Police Department Training, 1951 Malabar Rd NW, Palm Bay, FL - The location of the weather station will allow for monitoring of weather coming East of the St Johns River and will give real time data for weather moving into populated areas such as Melbourne, Palm Bay and surrounding areas; or Fred Poppe Regional Park, 1951 Malabar Rd NW, Palm Bay, FL - The location of the weather station will allow for monitoring of weather coming East of the St Johns River and will give real time data for weather moving into populated areas such as Melbourne, Palm Bay and surrounding areas. This is a secondary location as an alternative for Location #1;

2. SE Palm Bay, Babcock St and St Johns Heritage Pkwy, Palm Bay, FL - This location is seeing rapid growth and population increases. This weather station will serve the Southern Brevard County area. Exact location to be determined depending on mounting hardware; and

3. Castaways Point Park, 2990 Bay Blvd NE, Palm Bay, FL - This weather station will monitor weather conditions in NE Palm Bay and the Indian River. This location will provide data from Sea-Breeze type weather as it comes into the mainland.

The three weather monitoring stations will have a significant public benefit by providing real time weather information to help protect the safety of the citizens of Palm Bay. Additional information regarding the features and key benefits of the weather stations is attached hereto.

REQUESTING DEPARTMENTS:

Fire

FISCAL IMPACT:

For years one through three, the city has no fiscal impact. Under the proposed agreement, FDEM will install and maintain the Weather Stations for three (3) years. FDEM agrees to prepay for the annual maintenance cost, which includes maintenance, repair, software updates, and any other costs associated with the upkeep of the Weather Stations.

The City of Palm Bay is responsible for Years 4 through 10's annual maintenance cost of \$1900, which covers all maintenance, repair, and software updates. FDEM's approved third-party vendor will support all weather stations during this period. Before the agreement expires, the city will discuss future options to maintain the Weather Stations' capabilities with FDEM.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to submit application for three (3) weather monitoring stations, installation costs, and a three-year equipment maintenance contract for data storage and software development to Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) for Phase Five of the Florida Severe Weather Mesonet Project, operated by WeatherSTEM, Inc., and, to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between FDEM and the City of Palm Bay for use of WeatherStem stations.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Information Flier
2. Memorandum of Agreement
3. Application