

# WHITE SETTLEMENT POLICE DEPARTMENT



**ANNUAL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT REPORT  
JANUARY 1, 2023 - DECEMBER 31, 2024**

## **Texas Local Government Code, Title 4, Subtitle B, Chapter 423**

### **Sec. 423.008. REPORTING BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**

(a) Not earlier than January 1 and not later than January 15 of each odd-numbered year, each state law enforcement agency and each county or municipal law enforcement agency located in a county or municipality, as applicable, with a population greater than 150,000, that used or operated an unmanned aircraft during the preceding 24 months shall post a report regarding the agency's use or operation of unmanned aircraft on the agency's publicly accessible Internet website or, if the agency does not have a publicly accessible Internet website, otherwise make the report available to the public.

(b) The report must include:

(1) the number of times an unmanned aircraft was used, organized by date, time, location, and the types of incidents and types of justification for the use;

(2) the number of criminal investigations aided by the use of an unmanned aircraft and a description of how the unmanned aircraft aided each investigation;

(3) the number of times an unmanned aircraft was used for a law enforcement operation other than a criminal investigation, the dates and locations of those operations, and a description of how the unmanned aircraft aided each operation;

(4) the type of information collected on an individual, residence, property, or area that was not the subject of a law enforcement operation and the frequency of the collection of this information; and

(5) the total cost of acquiring, maintaining, repairing, and operating or otherwise using each unmanned aircraft for the preceding 24 months.

**THIS REPORT IS POSTED ON THE  
DEPARTMENT'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE  
WEBSITE AND MOBILE APP IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW.**

# UNMANNED AIRCRAFT DEPLOYMENTS

#	Report/Call Sheet	Location	Date/Time	Incident Type	Justification	Description	Type
1	24WS18855	3016 Biway Street, Sansom Park, TX 76114	9/19/2024   2336 Hours	Mental Health Disturbance	Officer Safety	Cleared house and located hidden suspect	FVP, Part 107
2	N/A	8901 Clifford Street, WS, TX 76108	10/1/2024   1800 Hours	Special Event Management	Safety sweeps of perimeters	National Night Out	Part 107



# WSPD sUAS OPERATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The department established its Aviation Unit in 2022. The program became operational in 2023 with additional equipment added in 2024. The department's Aviation Unit is an ancillary duty team assignment with members from the Patrol and Investigations Division assisting with calls for service.

The department is committed to maintaining the highest protections of privacy and safety and follows all applicable local, state, and federal laws. The intent of the Aviation Unit is to enhance WSPD's response to emergency calls for service, mitigate certain routine calls, provide situational awareness to supervisors, and assist in a variety of public safety initiatives. The Aviation Unit can utilize an approved small unmanned aerial system (sUAS) drone during an active response to an emergency or other call for police assistance. All WSPD Officers involved in the Aviation Unit are certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as Remote Pilots with an official FAA License.

WSPD policy prohibits Remote Pilots from intentionally recording or transmitting images of any location where a person would have a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as inside private buildings, backyards, or other locations, except when authorized by consent, a lawful search warrant obtained by a magistrate, or in exigent circumstances during an emergency situation. All state and federal laws related to privacy are followed by the Aviation Unit.

**City Ordinance Sec. 30357 - Exemptions:** This Ordinance does not apply to an Unmanned Aircraft System that is operated by the City, or by any other public safety agency for government-related purposes or public relations in compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations and operated by certified and trained personnel in compliance with City policies.

Chapter 423 Texas Government Code governs the use of unmanned aerial vehicles.

**Aviation Unit Policy Statement:** The Aviation Unit will respect the Constitutional privacy considerations of citizens, and the use of sUAS will be very limited in scope and only used as authorized by the outline described in this General Order. The sUAS program at the White Settlement Police Department may be utilized for event management to broaden awareness of conditions on the ground to safeguard public safety. In addition, the unit may be utilized in a reactive policing manner to incidents. The random use of departmental unmanned aircraft systems in residential areas, solely for the purpose of gathering evidence related to criminal wrongdoing or for any other unauthorized purpose, is prohibited.

Authorized uses of the WSPD Aviation Unit:

- Barricaded Suspect/Hostage Situation
- Active Felony Call in Progress
- Serious Bodily Injury or Fatality Crash Scene (for mapping)
- Felony Warrant Service
- Special Event Management
- Missing Child or Person Cases
- Rescue Operations
- Storm Damage Assessments
- Active Fire Scenes and Damage Assessments
- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- S.W.A.T. High Risk Operations
- Brand Management (Collecting generic city images)