



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Emergency Management and Fire Services

Board Action

File #: 24-537

Commissioner Hovis - Emergency Management/Fire Services - To Approve the Appropriation of Unified Fire Protection Service District Fund Balance for the Purchase of 7 Starlinks (\$3,294)

STAFF CONTACT

Scott Hunter - Emergency Management and Fire Services - 704-866-3231

BUDGET IMPACT

Increase Unified Fire Protection Service District revenues (fund balance appropriation) by \$3,294. Increase expenditures by \$3,294.

BACKGROUND

On October 10, 2024, the Gaston County Fire Commission voted to purchase seven Starlink units (up to the amount of \$3,500) to improve fire department connectivity during emergencies. This would cover one Starlink per district and the Commission aims to add more over time so that each fire department would have one at their station in the event of connectivity loss throughout the county. The quote came in at \$3,524.58 (\$3,294 less tax). Units will only be activated as needed and will appropriate funding for activation at that time.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Budget Change Request (BCR), DRAFT - 10/10/24 Fire Commission Meeting Minutes, Starlink Quote

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	CCloninger	AFrale	BHovis	KJohnson	TKeigher	RWorley	Vote
2024-391	11/12/2024	KJ	CC	A	A	AB	A	A	A	A	U

DISTRIBUTION:

Laserfiche Users

GASTON COUNTY BUDGET CHANGE REQUEST (BCR)

TO: Matthew Rhoten, County Manager
FROM: EMG Emergency Management Fire Services
 Dept. Code Department Name
 Scott Hunter 10/17/2024
 Department Director Date

REQUEST TYPE:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Line-Item Transfer Within Department & Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Transfer Within Department & Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Line-Item Transfer Between Departments | <input type="checkbox"/> Line-Item Transfer Between Funds*
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Appropriation of Funds*
<p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">* Requires resolution by the Board of Commissioners</p> |
|---|---|

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACCOUNT NUMBER	AMOUNT**
As it appears in Munis	4 3 3 5 6 7 4 2 6 5 Fund Dept Div SubDiv Prg SubPrg Future Func Obj Proj xxxx xxx xxx xxxxxx xxxxxx xxxxxx xxxx xx xxxxxx xxxxx	
Ex. Employee Training	Ex. 1000-BGT-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	Ex. \$5,000.00 Ex. (\$5,000.00)
Furn/Equip<\$5K	2036-000-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520020-	\$3,294
Fund Balance Appropriated	2036-NDP-000-00000-FBApro-0000000-0000-99-490000-	(\$3,294)

JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:

On October 10, 2024, the Gaston County Fire Commission voted to purchase seven Starlink units (up to the amount of \$3,500) to improve fire department connectivity during emergencies. This would cover one Starlink per district and the Commission aims to add more over time so that each fire department would have one at their station in the event of connectivity loss throughout the county. The quote came in at \$3,524.58 (\$3,294 less tax).

** Decreases in expenditures and increases in revenue accounts require brackets. Increases in expenditures and decreases in revenue do not require brackets. Please note that transfers between funds require inter-fund transfer accounts.

DRAFT

Gaston County Fire Commission Meeting

October 10th, 2024

Members Present:

Scott Hunter	Rob Smith
Richard Albaugh	Brian Weyeneth
Blair Gribble	Bob Hovis
Jamie Ramsey	
Will Keller (Zoom)	Justin Westbrook (Zoom)
Eric Withers (Zoom)	Vincent Wong
Alston Watts (Zoom)	Lance Foulk (Zoom)

Guest Present: Jeff Hicks

The meeting was held Thursday October 10th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center located at 615 N Highland Street, Gastonia.

- I. **Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**
Rob Smith called the meeting to order. Eric Withers made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Bob Hovis. The motion carried.
- II. **Public Comment**
No public comments were made.
- III. **Business Agenda**
 - A. Bob Hovis made a motion to approve the September 5th, 2024 meeting minutes. Jamie Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion carried.
 - B. New Hope Fire Department presented a Certificate of Need for SCBA replacement. The commission discussed the involvement of New Hope Fire Department in a group purchasing plan, the age of the equipment being replaced, and its trade-in value. Bob Hovis made a motion to approve the purchase for New Hope Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Jamie Ramsey. The motion carried.
 - C. Sub-Committee Updates
 - Rescue: No new updates.
 - Capital: Bryan Weyeneth provided an update on the capital task force, recommending setting aside 25% of the projected fund balance of no less than \$500,000 for future projects. Bob Hovis made a motion to approve

these recommendations. The motion was seconded by Jamie Ramsey. The motion carried. The capital taskforce also recommended covering 5% of grants up to \$50,000 including the grant-writer fee and associated sales tax to be paid (if any). Bob Hovis made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Jamie Ramsey. Commission went into discussion. Bob Hovis withdrew his motion. The taskforce will meet again to delve into further details and bring this back to the board at a later date. Discussion was held on the need for wet sprinkler systems in fire department facilities to meet 24/7 staffing requirements. It was agreed to send a letter to fire departments inquiring about their plans for connecting to municipal water systems and the need for wet sprinkler systems in sleeping quarters.

- Closest Department: No update.
- Apparatus Name: Director Scott Hunter provided an update on the tower operations during a meeting with Deputy Director Foulk, Scott Lambert, and Captain Waldrop, the new Captain overseeing the communication's center. They discussed the request for the tower, with letters sent to the chiefs of Belmont and Dallas. The plan involves a phased approach, starting immediately with the term "tower" to describe operations. Due to the transition period in the communication center, the fire chiefs have agreed to initially use the terminology "tower ladder." Once the telecommunicators become familiar with the distinction, the terminology in the CAD system will transition accordingly. The conversation was productive, and all parties are committed to moving forward.

D. Fire Service Agreement Update: Director Scott Hunter handed out updated contract that has gone through the attorneys and finance department. Upon approval of the Fire Commission, it will be sent to the Fire Chiefs. The commission discussed the dissolution clause and agreed to table the discussion for further review, with plans for a special meeting with the new county attorney to address property ownership and debt repayment issues.

E. Director Scott Hunter

- Director Hunter proposed purchasing seven Starlink units (in the amount of \$3,500) to improve fire department connectivity during emergencies, one per district. The commission discussed the benefits of having roving accounts to avoid monthly fees. Will Keller made a motion to approve the Starlink purchase. The motion was seconded by Alston Watts. The motion carried.

IV. **New/Old Business**

No business was discussed.

V. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Bob Hovis, seconded by Richard Albaugh. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned.

STARLINK STANDARD KIT



Starlink Subscription - Hurricane Relief

615 N Highland St, Gastonia, NC 28052, USA

\$349.00

STARLINK STANDARD KIT



Room - Unlimited II

615 N Highland St, Gastonia, NC 28052, USA

\$349.00

STARLINK STANDARD KIT



Room - Unlimited II

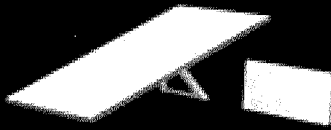
615 N Highland St, Gastonia, NC 28052, USA

\$349.00



STANDARD MOBILITY MOUNT

\$35.00

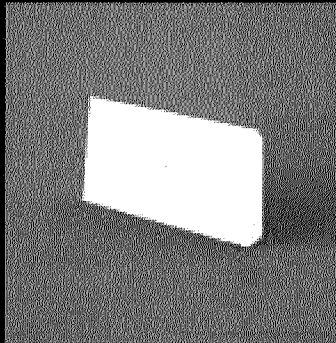


STARLINK STANDARD KIT

Room - Unlimited I

615 N Highland St, Gastonia, NC 28052,
USA

\$349.00



GEN 3 MESH ROUTER

\$199.00

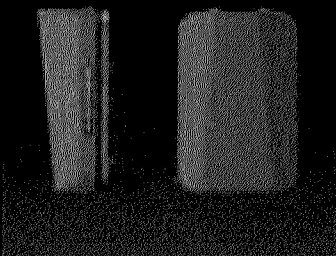


STARLINK MINI KIT

Room - Unlimited I (Mini)

615 N Highland St, Gastonia, NC 28052,
USA

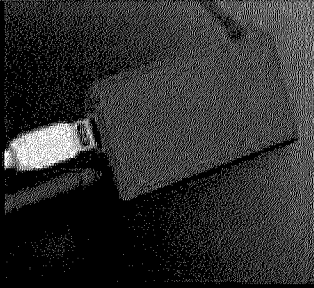
\$599.00



STARLINK TRAVEL CASE - DISCOUNTED

\$175.00





**ETHERNET ADAPTER -
DISCOUNT**

\$17.00

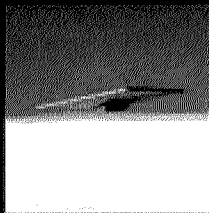


STARLINK STANDARD KIT

Roam - Unlimited I

615 N Highland St, Gastonia, NC 28052,
USA

\$349.00



STANDARD MOBILITY MOUNT

\$35.00



STARLINK STANDARD KIT

Roam - Unlimited I

615 N Highland St, Gastonia, NC 28052,
USA

\$349.00

Future Monthly Payments

Service (x6) \$990.00 /mo

One-Time Payments

Hardware \$2,693.00

Accessories \$391.00

Shipping \$140.00

Taxes \$230.58

Due Today \$3,524.58