



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
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Emergency Management and Fire Services

Board Action

File #: 25-118

Commissioner Hovis - Emergency Management and Fire Services - To Approve a Certificate of Need (CON) for Lucia Riverbend Fire Department in the Amount of \$74,585.72 for Purchase of a Deep Trekker Pivot ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) and Appropriate \$49,585.72 from the Unified Fire District Capital Fund

STAFF CONTACT

Scott Hunter - Emergency Management and Fire Services - 704-866-3350

BUDGET IMPACT

Increase Fund Balance Appropriated and the associated expense account by \$49,585.72 in the Unified Fire District Capital Fund.

BACKGROUND

At the February 20th, 2025 Fire Commission Meeting, Captain Chad Belcher presented CON 20252182-23 on behalf of Lucia Riverbend Fire Department requesting approval to purchase a Deep Trekker Pivot ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) in the amount of \$74,585.72 with \$25,000.00 of station funds, requesting \$49,585.72 out of the Capital Fund. The ROV will serve as the primary tool for recovery in water-related incidents. Scott Zander made a motion to approve the CON. The motion was seconded by Richard Albaugh. The motion was approved unanimously.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Budget Change Request (BCR), Certificate of Need 2025182-23, DRAFT - 2/20/25 Fire Commission Meeting Minutes, ROV Information

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	JBailey	CBrown	CCloninger	AFraley	BHovis	TKelgher	SShehan	Vote
2025-077	03/25/2025	BH	AF	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

DISTRIBUTION:

Laserfiche Users

A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS

GASTON COUNTY BUDGET CHANGE REQUEST (BCR)

TO: Matthew Rhoten, County Manager

FROM: EMG Emergency Management Fire Services

Dept. Code Department Name

Scott Hunter 02/26/2025

Department Director Date

REQUEST TYPE:

- ☐ Line-Item Transfer Within Department & Fund

☐ Project Transfer Within Department & Fund

☐ Line-Item Transfer Between Departments

☐ Line-Item Transfer Between Funds*

☒ Additional Appropriation of Funds*
- * Requires resolution by the Board of Commissioners

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACCOUNT NUMBER	AMOUNT**
As it appears in Munis	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> 4335674265 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: x-small;"> FundDeptDivSubDivProgSubProgFutureFuncObjProj </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: x-small;"> XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX </div>	
Ex. Employee Training	Ex. 1000-BGT-000-00000-0000000-00000000-0000-01-520011-	Ex. \$5,000.00 Ex. (\$5,000.00)
Additional Subsidies	2036-000-000-00000-000000-LuciaRi-0000-02-570011-	\$49,585.72
Fund Balance Appropriated	2036-NDP-000-00000-FBApro-0000000-0000-99-490000-	(\$49,585.72)

JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:

At the February 20th, 2025 Fire Commission Meeting, Captain Chad Belcher presented CON 20252182-23 on behalf of Lucia Riverbend Fire Department requesting approval to purchase a Deep Trekker Pivot ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) in the amount of \$74,585.72 with \$25,000.00 of station funds, requesting \$49,585.72 out of the Capital Fund. The ROV will serve as the primary tool for recovery in water-related incidents. Scott Zander made a motion to approve the CON. The motion was seconded by Richard Albaugh. The motion was approved unanimously.

** 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.



Gaston County Fire Commission



CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPLICATION

Fire Department

Name

Lucia Riverbend Fire Department

Address

14124 Lucia Riverbend Hwy., Mount Holly, North Carolina 28120

Chief

David Toomey

Contact Phone #

(704) 913-7838

Board President

Michael Hoover

Contact Phone #

(704) 641-3880

Fire Department Board Approval / Notification

Yes

General Description of Purchase

Deep Trekker Pivot ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle)

Time Line of Purchase

30 days

List Specifics of Purchase

Pivot ROV - Search and Recovery Series, Sensor Pod Upgrade Kit, Integration Tablet w/ Bridge Box, Service Kit, Training

Estimated Cost

\$74,585.72

Financing Information

Lender

NA

Amount Financed

\$0.00

Rate

0

Estimated Amount

\$0.00

Number of Payments

0

Down Payment Amount

\$0.00

Debt Ratio-Current / Post Purchase

0

Any Re-Financing or Bundling

No

If Yes, then Describe**How Will Purchase Benefit the Department (Safety/ISO/Cost Savings, etc)**

The ROV will serve as the primary tool for recovery in our water-related incidents, helping to minimize, but not fully replace the need for certified divers. It will enable us to explore targets identified by boat operated sonar, reducing the need to deploy divers for investigation. Additionally, the ROV's design and storage capabilities will facilitate quick deployment to various locations, both within and outside of Gaston County.

How Will Purchase be Funded (Long Term - NOT Just Current Year)

Station funds (\$25000.00) coupled with Capital Fund Request (\$49585.72)

If Purchase is NOT Approved for Funding, Describe Department Alternatives

Station will investigate other funding options.

Is This a Replacement?

No

If Yes, List Details (Make, Model, Years of Service, Remaining Balance, etc.)

NA

What Will Become of Old Apparatus / Equipment?

NA

5-year Plan**5-year Plan #2 (optional)****5-year Plan #3 (optional)****Account Balances:**

Checking	CD	Savings	Relief Fund	Other	Other
\$193,225.36	\$104,199.41	\$44,534.92			

UPLOAD FILE(S)**Item 1****Upload Files**

New World Class Underwater ROV - YouTube.url

Item 2**Upload Files**

DTPivot_ENG_0620_03.pdf

Item 3

Upload Files
2025-02-07 ROV Purchase Request.pdf

STAFF ONLY

Received By (OEMFS Director):

Date:

Fire Commission Meeting Date:

APPROVED
APPROVED

NOT

Gaston County BOC Meeting Date:

APPROVED
APPROVED

NOT

Certificate Number
20252182-23

Gaston County Fire Commission Meeting

February 20th, 2025

The meeting was held Thursday February 20th, 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. Brian Weyeneth motioned to approve the agenda as presented, with the exception of removing Ag Center's Certificate of Need at Chief Towery's request. The motion was seconded by Scott Zander. The motion was passed unanimously.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Business Agenda

- A. Scott Zander made a motion to approve the January 15th, 2025, meeting minutes. Brian Weyeneth seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- B. Chris Eason presented information on health insurance for full-time employees on behalf of the Crowders Mountain Fire Department. He also provided details regarding the sale of Crowders Mountain Station 2 to the City of Bessemer. Chris reviewed the history of previously approved Certificates of Need for parking lot and roof repairs at the station. However, a commercial realtor has advised against completing these repairs prior to the sale. Crowders Mountain has identified a potential location for their new station near the 74 corridors.
- C. Fire Chief Woody Thomas presented CON 2052182-25 on behalf of Crowders Mountain Fire Department for (2) Ford F-350 Brush Units and 1 Skid Unit in the amount of \$160,000.00 bank financed. Their existing brush units, which are 17 and 20 years old, have increasing maintenance costs and reliability concerns. To address these issues, they plan to replace them with new trucks. Both current units are fully paid off and will be listed for sale on GovDeals. The Closest Department subcommittee will meet with Crowders Mountain for further discussion. Richard Albaugh made a motion to approve the CON. The motion was seconded by Scott Zander. The motion was passed unanimously.
- D. Captain Chad Belcher presented CON 20252182-23 on behalf of Lucia Riverbend Fire Department requesting approval to purchase a Deep Trekker Pivot ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) in the amount of \$74,585.72 with \$25,000.00 of station funds, requesting \$49,585.72 out of the Capital Fund. The ROV will serve as the primary tool for recovery in water-related incidents. Scott Zander made a motion to approve the CON. The motion was seconded by Richard Albaugh. The motion was approved unanimously.
- E. Fire Chief Ronnie Capps presented CON 20252182-24 (via ZOOM) on behalf of Union Road Fire Department requesting approval to purchase Airpacks. They made the purchase using state grant funding for 25 Scott X3 air packs, 50 masks, 3 RIT packs, 50 air bottles, flow testing for all packs for five years and first hydro

on bottles at the five-year mark. The cost was \$310,200.00. Eric Withers made a motion to approve the CON. The motion was seconded by Justin Westbrook. The motion was approved unanimously.

- F. Fire Chief Corey Jonas presented CON 20252182-26 on behalf of the East Gaston Fire Department, requesting approval to purchase the retired Engine 34 from the City of Mount Holly Fire Department. The department cited increased downtime due to maintenance issues with their current Engine 30 as the primary reason for needing this apparatus. The total request is \$100,000.00, with \$50,000.00 allocated for the purchase of the apparatus and the remaining \$50,000.00 designated for wrapping, upfitting, and equipping the unit as needed. Of the \$100,000 request, \$50,000 is being requested from the Capital Fund. After a lengthy discussion, much of which focused on the department's limited funds, Richard Albaugh motioned to table the Certificate of Need. Brian Weyeneth seconded the motion, which was approved. Justin Westbrook abstained from voting.
- G. Fire Chief Mark Wright presented CON 20252182-27 on behalf of the Tryonota Fire Department, requesting approval to purchase a new Smeal Metro Star Engine for \$950,000. The department is requesting that the County fund the request in their annual budget until the terms of the financing are complete. After extensive discussion regarding the Fire Commission's inability to approve a fire truck purchase in the new budget before the budget review process has begun, Scott Zander motioned to table the request until budget discussions. Justin Westbrook seconded the motion, which was approved. Rob Smith and Richard Albaugh abstained from voting.
- H. Sub-Committee Updates
 - Rescue: Scott Zander advised on their subcommittee's efforts to reorganize their existing information and seek clarification from departments regarding any missing details.
 - Capital: Richard Albaugh led the discussion requesting an update on the capital fund balance and asked for a quarterly statement outlining the current balance and expenditure report for FY 25.
 - Closest Department: Justin Westbrook advised no update; the sub-committee is meeting March 4th.
- I. Fire Service Agreement Update: Scott Hunter advised that the draft contract has been sent out to the Fire Chiefs and must be returned to Scott by March 1st. The contract will then be uploaded to the shared drive for the Fire Commission to review. Any changes made will be disseminated back to the Fire Chiefs no later than April 1st for their final review. The finalized contract is due back to Scott by May 1st. The budget and contract will be presented to the Board of Commissioners around May 13th.
- J. Emergency Management & Fire Services Update: Scott Hunter proposed an amendment to the Certificate of Need (CON) requirements and set a Business Agenda Deadline, suggesting that fire departments must submit a CON or FD Business at least 14 days prior to a meeting. This change would allow sufficient time for thorough review, as late submissions often result in missed details or

mistakes. Brian Weyeneth made a motion, which was seconded by Eric Withers. Richard Albaugh and Justin Westbrook were opposed. The motion was approved.

IV. **New/Old Business**

- A. The Fire Commission reviewed a Certificate of Need previously submitted by Fire Chief Brad Presswood of Alexis Fire Department, requesting approval for the removal and replacement of failed concrete in the driveway of their main station on Highway 27, totaling \$59,505.00. This was tabled at the November 19th, 2024, meeting until CON Requirements were approved. The request was for funding from the Capital Fund. Scott Zander made a motion to approve the CON, with \$50,000.00 from the Capital Fund, and Brian Weyeneth seconded. The motion was approved. Will Keller abstained from voting.

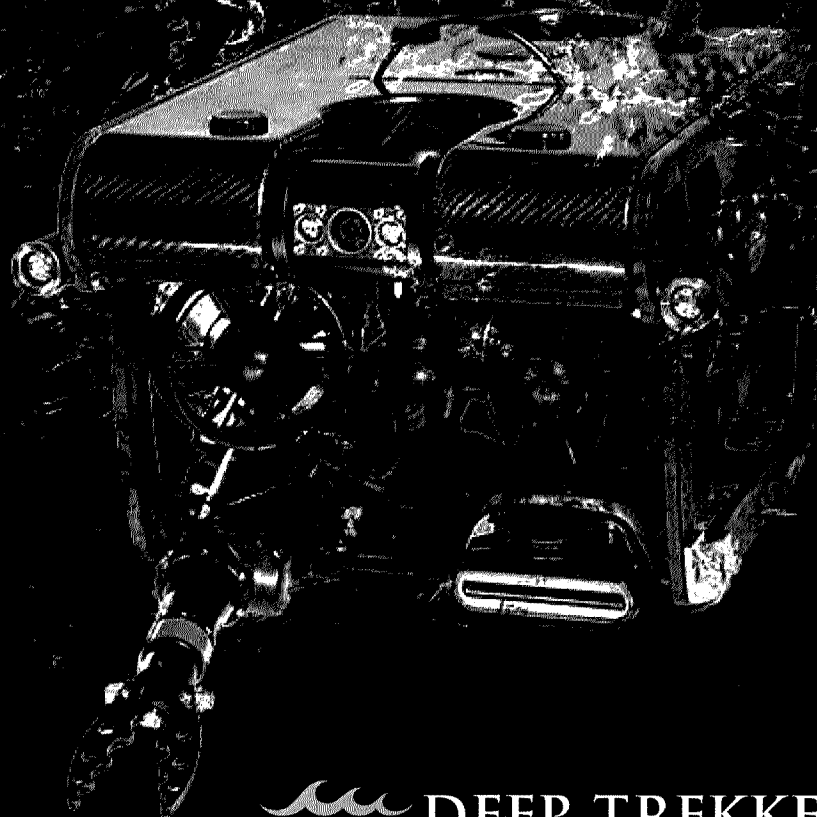
- V. The next meeting date is **March 13th, 2025**.

VI. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Scott Zander, seconded by Richard Albaugh. The motion was approved unanimously.

PIVOT REMOTELY OPERATED VEHICLE [ROV]

The perfect balance between size and power.
Providing enhanced stability, greater power,
speed and control in a portable package.



 **DEEP TREKKER™**

PORTABILITY MEETS POWER

The Deep Trekker PIVOT, portability meets unmatched power. Equipped with 6 strong thrusters powered by lithium batteries, the PIVOT provides users with stability, power, speed and control in a portable package.



305m (1000ft)
depth rating



Up to 3-hour
battery operation



HD rotating
camera head



Modular for 3rd
party add-ons



Rotating tool platform

Independently
revolve 97-degrees
for manipulator,
sonar and more.



Field swap batteries

Quick-change
batteries in the field
for extended missions.



Autonomous capabilities

Seamlessly fusing
all sensor data for
autonomous control.

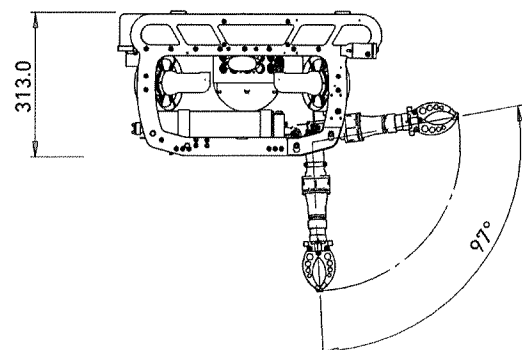
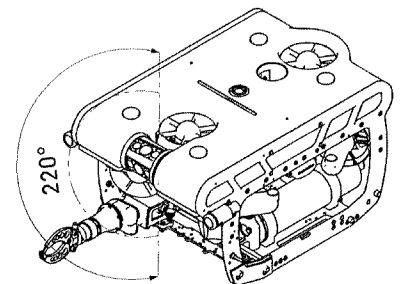
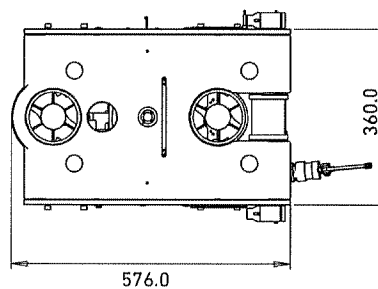
GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

ROV General Specs

Width :	360 MM (14.2")
Height :	310 MM (12.2")
Length :	576 MM (22.7")
Weight (in air) :	21.7 KG (48 LB)
Body Material :	Anodized Machined Aluminum, Carbon Fiber, & Stainless Steel Buoyancy Foam
Window Material :	Sapphire & Acrylic
Depth Rating :	305 M (1000 Ft)
Operating Temp :	-10°C to 50°C (14°F – 122°F)
Case:	Custom Pelican Air 1650 & 1560 Handle and Wheels
Drives/Thruster:	Magnetically Coupled/Sealed
Warranty :	1 Year – Parts and Labor (optional 2-3 yrs)

ROV Electrical System

System Voltage :	19.6 VDC
Battery Run Time :	Up to 3 Hours (30-sec Battery Change)
Battery Recharge :	1.5 Hours
Thruster Control :	6x Independent Control Infinitely Variable 100% Reversible



Deep Trekker reserves the right to amend these specifications at any time without notice.

COMBINING FLEXIBILITY, STABILITY AND INTELLIGENT FEATURES FOR UNMATCHED FREEDOM

97-degree rotating tool positioning provides pilots with flexible imaging options and convenient tool manipulation from a stable platform - allowing for jobs to be completed quickly and conveniently. The 220-degree range of motion on the HD camera allows users to complete inspections in a timely, straightforward manner.

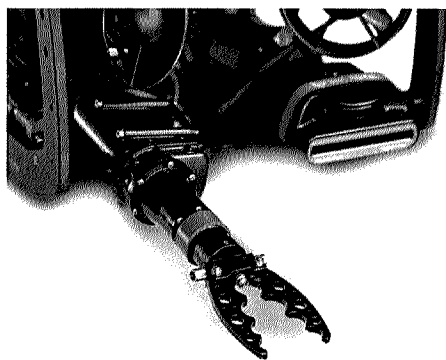
- The expandable tool platform allows for numerous modular options for adaptability and customization.
- In addition to being flexible and adaptable, the PIVOT is easy to use allowing operators to be trained quickly.
- The ideal combination of stability and flexibility lets users keep their platform in the most stable position for imaging options.

OUT-OF-BOX READY

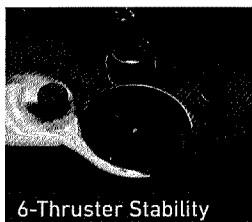
Fully assembled and tested, operators can depend on their PIVOT to work right out of the box no matter what the mission.

- Carbon fiber and aluminum durability make the PIVOT a tough and reliable vehicle. Providing years of service - saving time and money long term.
- Magnetically coupled thrusters, stainless steel components and sapphire lens cover paired with intelligent design ensures that operators can trust their vehicle to get the job done.
- With the support of the Deep Trekker team behind every vehicle, users can expect exceptional customer service.

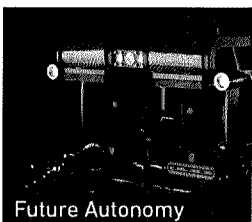
VEHICLE COMPONENTS & OPTIONAL ADD-ONS



Independent Pivoting Tool Skid



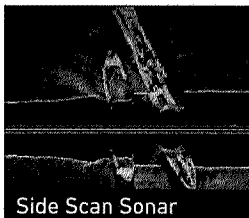
6-Thruster Stability



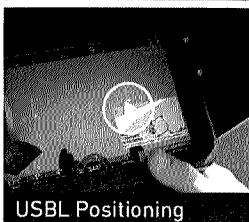
Future Autonomy



Imaging Sonar



Side Scan Sonar



USBL Positioning

POWERED BY BRIDGE TECHNOLOGY

An intelligent, technology platform from Deep Trekker. An operating system designed with custom hardware and software; for control, integration, communication and enhanced operation.

Enable the ability to fuse all sensor data into one handheld, weatherproof controller. See positional data, direct imaging sonar feed and more - all alongside the ROV live video feed.



Simplified control



Seamless integrations



Constant communication



Enhanced operations

[LEARN MORE](#)

	PIVOT SMART	PIVOT EXPERT	PIVOT NAV
HD Rotating Camera Head	✓	✓	✓
7" LCD Controller	✓	✓	✓
300M Depth Rating	✓	✓	✓
Tether Length	100M	150M	300M
Tether Reel	✓	✓	✓
Tool Platform	-	✓	✓
Spare Batteries	-	✓	✓
Sensor Pack	✓	✓	✓
Carrying Cases	✓	✓	✓
Microphone	✓	✓	✓
Lighting	✓	✓	✓
Additional Lighting	-	✓	✓
Grabber	-	✓	✓
Fully Assembled and Test	✓	✓	✓
Warranty	One Year	One Year	Two Years
Online Training	-	✓	✓
USBL Positioning	-	-	✓
DVL	-	-	✓
Field Service Kit	-	-	✓
EXTRA ADD-ONS			
Imaging Sonar	NDT Tools	Custom Tether Lengths	
Mechanical Sonar	Grabbers and Manipulators	Service Kits	
USBL	Sediment Samplers	Operational Enhancements	
DVL	Water Samplers	Application Based Tools	
Side Scan	Additional Cameras		
Water Quality Sensors	Additional Lighting		

UNDERWATER REMOTELY OPERATED VEHICLES & ROBOTS

With over a decade of proven performance, Canadian company, Deep Trekker, is one of the largest underwater ROV manufacturers in the world – delivering high quality, robust and portable underwater robots to industries ranging from aquaculture to municipal contracting, military and defense, search and rescue, shipping, infrastructure and more.

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