



**Fond du Lac Area
FOUNDATION**

Fond du Lac Area Foundation
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Foundation Awards \$15,000 Grant to Sheriff's Office for 3rd Drone and Delivery System

Fond du Lac, Wis. (September 23, 2021): The Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a \$15,000 Impact Grant from the Fond du Lac Area Foundation.

The grant will allow the sheriff's office to purchase a new drone, expanding their fleet to two units for search and rescue missions. Additionally, the grant will fund enhancement capabilities for both the new and existing drones, including spotlights for nighttime searching and a payload delivery system to distribute items such as flotation devices, tourniquets, cell phones, and other life-saving items to victims in critical incidents.

Fond du Lac County Sheriff Ryan Waldschmidt said, "We are very thankful for the support the Fond du Lac Area Foundation provides our Sheriff's Office through enhancements to our capabilities, which ultimately makes our community safer. Our Drone Team has been in service for almost one year, and this technology has proven to be one of the most significant technological enhancements we have implemented in many years. The value it adds by increasing officer safety during searches for suspects, enhancing community safety during search and rescue missions, and increasing our ability to capture aerial photographic evidence of crime and crash scenes is immeasurable."

The new drone will bring the sheriff's office total drone fleet to three – one small, indoor unit used to conduct searches of buildings during high-risk tactical situations and now two large, outdoor units used for search and rescue and tactical missions.

The outdoor drones will be outfitted with the latest payload delivery systems. The systems will be attached to the drones so the pilot may deliver urgent items, such as a personal flotation device to a person in water, medical supplies to an injured victim needing treatment, water and/or food to a victim lost in a remote location, and other items as needed based on the circumstances. Additional technology

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will include high-powered search lights illuminating a 60' diameter area on the ground from 200' in the air.

The purchase of a second outdoor drone will provide the sheriff's office with numerous advantages. First, the ability to maintain continuous flight during a mission so that at any given time at least one drone remains airborne while the other lands for battery replacement. Second, deputies will be able to search areas twice as fast, covering double the territory that one drone typically covers during a search. Dual outdoor drones will create the ability to monitor tactical situations from two different angles, which can maximize officer and citizen safety.

"We are honored to help expand the capabilities of the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office Drone Team. At the Foundation, we support not only the needs of the community, but also enhance the strengths. This is certainly an opportunity where we can utilize our Impact Grant Cycle to make a significant impact," said Joe Braun, executive director of the Fond du Lac Area Foundation.

Each year, based on availability, the Fond du Lac Area Foundation accepts Community Impact Grant applications. The Foundation aims to partner with grantees in a deeper, more sustained manner to maximize impact together. Consequently, Community Impact Grants are among the larger grants awarded by the Foundation each year.

Community Impact Grants are awarded at a maximum amount of \$100,000 for no more than a two-year commitment and support seven key areas:

- Endowment: build capacity and sustainability by helping nonprofits leverage additional funds and incorporate endowment fundraising as a regular part of their ongoing development program.
- Capital projects: bricks and mortar for important projects that will strengthen community.
- Capacity building: helps to strengthen community organizations through training, education, seminars, and more.
- Community leadership: proactive opportunity to support community assessments, surveys, special initiatives, and leverage other sources of financial support.
- Community betterment: provide support to initiatives that improve the quality of life.
- Start-up/entrepreneurial: help new ideas, organizations, and community initiatives get established.

For more information, please call (920) 921-2215 or visit the Fond du Lac Area Foundation website at

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The Fond du Lac Area Foundation was established with one fund from a contribution of \$50,000 from the disbanded Fond du Lac Children's Home in 1975. As of 2021, the Foundation has over \$65 million in assets and more than 425 funds. Each of those funds represent a unique charitable interest, including support for scholarships, churches, youth activities, the arts, the needy, the environment, and more. Endowment funds are now generating more than \$2 million each year that is being returned to the community in the form of charitable grants and scholarships. The Foundation has one regional affiliate, the Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation.