



Legislative Report

2024 Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

June 15, 2025

Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
1430 Maryland Ave. East
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-793-7000

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca>

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Introduction

Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 82, section 5, subdivision 12a-b requires all law enforcement agencies that maintain or use an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), also known a drone, to report the following data by Jan. 15 regarding the prior calendar year to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS):

- The number of times a UAV was deployed without a search warrant.
- The date of each deployment.
- The authorized use for each deployment (see [Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 82](#), section 5, subdivision 3).
- The total cost of the agency's UAV program.

This report fulfills the further requirement that DPS compile the data into a report for the legislature to be posted on the department's website.

Background

Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 82, was signed into law on May 16, 2020.

The BCA developed and provided a submittal form to law enforcement agencies in August 2020 that enables law enforcement agencies that maintain or use an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to report the data required by statute in a uniform manner.

The information provided to and compiled by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) in this report covers the reporting period Jan. 1, 2024, through Dec. 31, 2024.

Summary data

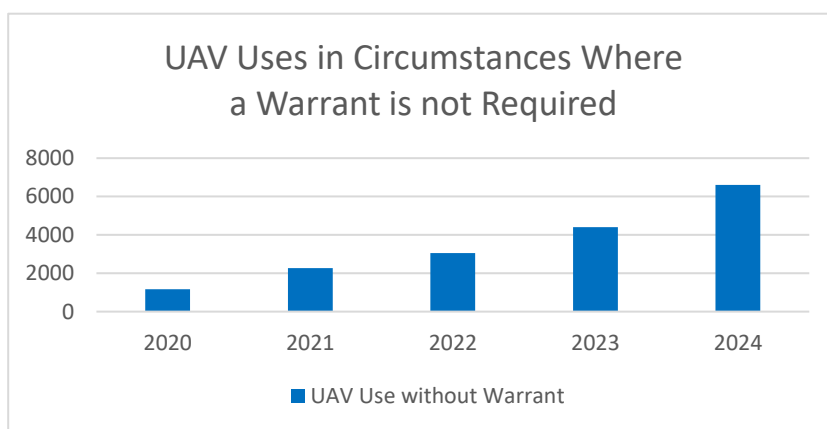
Agency type and total uses in circumstances where a warrant is not required

- Sheriff's departments: 58
- Police departments: 58
- Other (State Patrol, BCA and Cannon River Task Force): 3

Total agencies reporting: 119

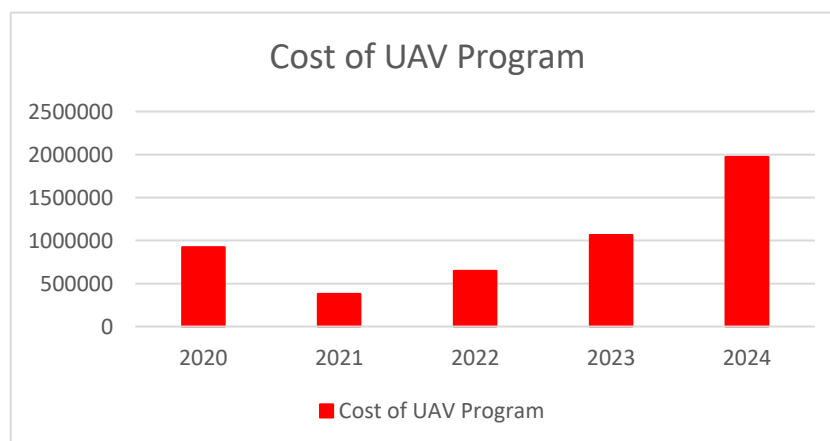
Total uses without a search warrant: 6,603

In 2024, Minnesota law enforcement agencies reported a total of 6,603 UAV uses in circumstances where a warrant is not required. That is up 50 percent from the 4,400 reported in 2023. Information on individual agency uses are provided below in summary and later in the report for each reason code.



Program costs

In 2024, Minnesota law enforcement agencies spent a total of \$1,973,337.63 on UAV agency programs. That is up 85 percent from the \$1,065,677.32 total in 2023. Information on individual agency costs is provided below.



By-agency UAV use

Name of law enforcement agency	ORI Number	Cost	Number of times UAV used w/out warrant
Alexandria Police Department	MN0210100	\$3,073.91	6
Anoka County Sheriff's Office	MN0020000	\$6,098.00	321
Austin Police Department	MN0500100	\$0.00	8
Becker County Sheriff's Office	MN0030000	\$41,000.00	63
Beltrami County Sheriff's Office	MN0040000	\$0.00	0
Benton County Sheriff's Office	MN0050000	\$1,372.00	3
Big Lake Police Department	MN0710100	\$440.00	26
Big Stone County Sheriff's Office	MN0060000	\$180.00	7
Blaine Police Department	MN0020200	\$4,595.28	125
Bloomington Police Department	MN0270100	\$30,971.00	103
Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office	MN0700000	\$1,000.00	32
Brooklyn Park Police Department	MN0270300	\$8,500.00	373
Brown County Sheriff's Office	MN0080000	\$0.00	7
Burnsville Police Department	MN0190100	\$30,168.00	77
Cannon River Drug and Violent Offender Task Force		\$1,370.00	15
Carlton County Sheriff's Office	MN0090000	\$31,119.27	14
Carver County Sheriff's Office	MN0100000	\$49,625.34	11
Cass County Sheriff's Office	MN0110000	\$9,482.94	24
Champlin Police Department	MN0272900	\$10,539.00	17
Chaska Police Department	MN0100200	\$50,306.39	64
Chippewa County Sheriff's Office	MN0120000	\$500.00	9
Chisago County Sheriff's Office	MN0130000	\$9,846.33	116
Clay County Sheriff's Office	MN0140000	\$2,500.00	10
Clearwater County Sheriff's Office	MN0150000	\$1,500.00	26
Columbia Heights Police Department	MN0020400	\$10,917.00	63
Coon Rapids Police Department	MN0020500	\$3,372.00	115
Corcoran Police Department	MN0273100	\$17,762.00	13
Cottage Grove Police Department	MN0820700	\$3,000.00	31
Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office	MN0180000	\$106,739.00	45
Crystal Police Department	MN0270400	\$1,000.00	36
Dakota County Sheriff's Office	MN0190000	\$24,203.00	180
Dodge County Sheriff's Office	MN0200000	\$1,500.00	22
Douglas County Sheriff's Office	MN0210000	\$12,344.13	49
Duluth Police Department	MN0690600	\$12,017.00	62
Eagan Police Department	MN0190800	\$25,000.00	220
Eden Prairie Police Department	MN0272600	\$35,897.98	88
Edina Police Department	MN0270600	\$20,500.00	252
Elk River Police Department	MN0710200	\$26,615.26	24

Name of law enforcement agency	ORI Number	Cost	Number of times UAV used w/out warrant
Faribault County Sheriff's Office	MN0220000	\$18,000.00	9
Faribault Police Department	MN0660100	\$1,042.00	17
Freeborn County Sheriff's Office	MN0240000	\$299.00	7
Golden Valley Police Department	MN0270800	\$0.00	30
Goodhue County Sheriff's Office	MN0250100	\$7,161.87	35
Grant County Sheriff's Office	MN0260000	\$0.00	2
Hennepin County Sheriff's Office	MN0270000	\$14,236.00	50
Hopkins Police Department	MN0270900	\$21,628.91	89
Hubbard County Sheriff's Office	MN0290000	\$500.00	11
Inver Grove Heights Police Department	MN0190900	\$15,494.00	52
Isanti County Sheriff's Office	MN0300000	\$19,925.00	26
Itasca County Sheriff's Office	MN0310000	\$40,000.00	12
Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office	MN0340000	\$15.00	25
Kanabec County Sheriff's Office	MN0330000	\$11,801.00	31
Lake County Sheriff's Office	MN0380000	\$200.00	3
Lakeville Police Department	MN0191100	\$12,827.53	199
Lino Lakes Department of Public Safety	MN0020700	\$175.00	61
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office	MN0041000	\$0.00	4
Mahnomen County Sheriff's Office	MN0044000	\$0.00	2
Maple Grove Police Department	MN0272700	\$11,500.00	174
Maplewood Public Safety	MN0620400	\$3,032.99	106
Mankato Department of Public Safety	MN0070100	\$1,864.00	20
Marshall Police Department	MN0420100	\$0.00	0
McLeod County Sheriff's Office	MN0430000	\$2,851.00	39
Meeker County Sheriff's Office	MN0470000	\$2,043.87	28
Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office	MN0480000	\$9,036.00	25
Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department	MNDI02400	\$17,704.00	55
Minneapolis Airport Police Department	MN0272500	\$43,000.00	32
Minneapolis Police Department	MN02711C2	\$160,300.00	119
Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension	MNBCA0000	\$418,000.00	20
Minnesota State Patrol	MNMHP2000	\$40,359.13	553
Morrison County Sheriff's Office	MN0490000	\$16,261.00	23
New Brighton Department of Public Safety	MN0620600	\$26,793.31	72
New Hope Police Department	MN0271400	\$15,000.00	23
New Ulm Police Department	MN0080100	\$12,754.00	12
Nobles County Sheriff's Office	MN0053000	\$0.00	7
Nicollet County Sheriff's Office	MN0520000	\$15,876.95	6
North St. Paul Police Department	MN0620700	\$19,300.06	3
Olmsted County Sheriff's Office	MN0550000	\$65,000.00	13
Orono Police Department	MN0271500	\$0.00	50
Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office	MN0560000	\$3,500.00	48
Owatonna Police Department	MN0740100	\$5,000.00	17

Name of law enforcement agency	ORI Number	Cost	Number of times UAV used w/out warrant
Pine County Sheriff's Office	MN0580000	\$10,634.22	30
Plymouth Police Department	MN0271700	\$7,500.00	26
Polk County Sheriff's Office	MN0600000	\$13,500.00	10
Pope County Sheriff's Office	MN0610000	\$12,000.00	25
Ramsey County Sheriff's Office	MN0620000	\$32,819.82	283
Red Lake County Sheriff's Office	MN0630000	\$100.00	8
Redwood County Sheriff's Office	MN0640000	\$3,885.45	8
Renville County Sheriff's Office	MN0650000	\$4,790.98	2
Rice County Sheriff's Office	MN0660000	\$23,000.00	83
Richfield Police Department	MN0271800	\$31,745.34	36
Robbinsdale Police Department	MN0271900	\$22,810.00	69
Rochester Police Department	MN0550100	\$28,713.97	97
Roseville Police Department	MN0620800	\$1,500.00	88
Sauk Centre Police Department	MN0730500	\$6.00	4
Sauk Rapids Police Department	MN0050200	\$1,714.00	32
Scott County Sheriff's Office	MN0700000	\$19,842.47	51
Sherburne County Sheriff's Office	MN0710000	\$4,283.98	39
St. Cloud Police Department	MN0730400	\$3,212.67	158
St. Francis Police Department	MN0021500	\$1,000.00	23
St. Louis County Sheriff's Office	MN0690000	\$3,000.00	65
St. Paul Police Department	MN0620900	\$35,000.00	276
Stearns County Sheriff's Office	MN0730000	\$2,421.66	66
Stevens County Sheriff's Office	MN0750000	\$2,200.00	8
Three Rivers Park District Public Safety	MN0274000	\$1,601.29	30
Todd County Sheriff's Office	MN0770000	\$10,610.16	20
Upper Sioux Police Department	MNDI02300	\$3,637.50	1
Wadena County Sheriff's Office	MN0800000	\$9,143.00	40
Wadena Police Department	MN0800100	\$945.00	3
Waseca County Sheriff's Office	MN0810000	\$45.00	8
Washington County Sheriff's Office	MN0820000	\$1,000.00	76
Watonwan County Sheriff's Office	MN0830000	\$3,589.30	17
White Bear Lake Police Department	MN0621000	\$7,934.36	63
Willmar Police Department	MN0340100	\$2,646.01	18
Windom Police Department	MN0170200	\$2,000.00	4
Winona County Sheriff's Office	MN0850000	\$0.00	11
Winona Police Department	MN0850200	\$10.00	14
Woodbury Police Department	MN0821100	\$1,959.00	13
Wright County Sheriff's Office	MN0860000	\$15,000.00	25
Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office	MN0870000	\$0.00	6
Totals		\$1,973,337.63	6,603

Agency data submissions

The remaining portion of this report contains the reason codes law enforcement agencies provided for incidents where a UAV was used without a warrant.

Reason Code	Reason
1	During or in the aftermath of an emergency situation that involves the risk of death or bodily harm to a person.
2	Over a public event where there is a heightened risk to the safety of participants or bystanders.
3	To counter the risk of a terrorist attack by a specific individual or organization if the agency determines that credible intelligence indicates a risk.
4	To prevent the loss of life and property in natural or man-made disasters and to facilitate operational planning, rescue and recovery operations in the aftermath of these disasters.
5	To conduct a threat assessment in anticipation of a specific event.
6	To collect information from a public area if there is reasonable suspicion of criminal activity.
7	To collect information for crash reconstruction purposes after a serious or deadly collision occurring on a public road.
8	Over a public area for officer training or public relations purposes.
9	For purposes unrelated to law enforcement at the request of a government entity provided that the government entity makes the request in writing to the law enforcement agency and specifies the reason for the request and proposed period of use.

Name of law enforcement agency	Reason code 1	Reason code 2	Reason code 3	Reason code 4	Reason code 5	Reason code 6	Reason code 7	Reason code 8	Reason code 9
Alexandria Police Department	1							5	
Anoka County Sheriff's Office	81					111		129	
Austin Police Department	3					1		2	2
Becker County Sheriff's Office	29			1		4		28	1
Beltrami County Sheriff's Office									
Benton County Sheriff's Office	1					2			
Big Lake Police Department	5	1			3	10		3	4
Big Stone County Sheriff's Office						5	1	1	
Blaine Police Department	48	13				6		58	
Bloomington Police Department	14					28	9	52	
Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office	13	5					2	5	7
Brooklyn Park Police Department	79					166		128	
Brown County Sheriff's Office	2			4				1	
Burnsville Police Department	14	4				1		58	
Cannon River Drug and Violent Offender Task Force				2		4	2	7	
Carlton County Sheriff's Office	7					1		5	1
Carver County Sheriff's Office								11	
Cass County Sheriff's Office	7					2		13	2
Champlin Police Department	5					10		2	

Name of law enforcement agency	Reason code 1	Reason code 2	Reason code 3	Reason code 4	Reason code 5	Reason code 6	Reason code 7	Reason code 8	Reason code 9
Chaska Police Department	18	3		6	1			36	
Chippewa County Sheriff's Office	5			1				3	
Chisago County Sheriff's Office	20			5	7	10		72	2
Clay County Sheriff's Office	7					2		1	
Clearwater County Sheriff's Office	8			1		3		13	1
Columbia Heights Police Department	28					33		2	
Coon Rapids Police Department	28			2		13		71	1
Corcoran Police Department	1	2					2	8	
Cottage Grove Police Department	4	1		12		14			
Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office	30	1		11			3		
Crystal Police Department	2	1			2	19		11	1
Dakota County Sheriff's Office	49	9		1	5	11	3	102	
Dodge County Sheriff's Office	11				1	1		9	
Douglas County Sheriff's Office	27			3		4	1	14	
Duluth Police Department	43					18	1		
Eagan Police Department	48	9			1	19		140	3
Eden Prairie Police Department	18	9			2	18	1	40	
Edina Police Department	18	8	6			53		165	2
Elk River Police Department	5					17		2	
Faribault County Sheriff's Office	2							5	2
Faribault Police Department	4	1		3				9	
Freeborn County Sheriff's Office	1							5	1
Golden Valley Police Department	8	1						21	
Goodhue County Sheriff's Office	2	1			1	3		25	3
Grant County Sheriff's Office	1							1	
Hennepin County Sheriff's Office	8							42	
Hopkins Police Department	54					1		34	
Hubbard County Sheriff's Office	4					4	3		
Inver Grove Heights Police Department	13				1	3		34	1
Isanti County Sheriff's Office	10						1	15	
Itasca County Sheriff's Office	5							5	2
Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office	7					10	3	5	
Kanabec County Sheriff's Office	6			1	9			15	
Lake County Sheriff's Office	2			1					
Lakeville Police Department	58	23						118	
Lino Lakes Department of Public Safety	27			1		6		27	
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office	4								
Mahnomen County Sheriff's Office						2			
Maple Grove Police Department	69	2				1		102	
Maplewood Public Safety	62				1	25		18	
Mankato Department of Public	8	1		9	1			1	

Name of law enforcement agency	Reason code 1	Reason code 2	Reason code 3	Reason code 4	Reason code 5	Reason code 6	Reason code 7	Reason code 8	Reason code 9
Safety									
Marshall Police Department									
McLeod County Sheriff's Office	3					4	1	31	
Meeker County Sheriff's Office	4					4		19	1
Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office	6	1				10	1	5	2
Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department	9			7	19	17	1	2	
Minneapolis Airport Police Department	1							31	
Minneapolis Police Department	59	9			8	20		23	
Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension	3					5		12	
Minnesota State Patrol							502	50	1
Morrison County Sheriff's Office	7	1		1		2	8	3	1
New Brighton Department of Public Safety	13			1	1	23		32	2
New Hope Police Department	2					3		18	
New Ulm Police Department	1							11	
Nobles County Sheriff's Office	1					5		1	
Nicollet County Sheriff's Office	3					1		2	
North St. Paul Police Department								3	
Olmsted County Sheriff's Office	8							4	1
Orono Police Department	11							39	
Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office	20			1		1		10	16
Owatonna Police Department							4	11	2
Pine County Sheriff's Office	17	7		3	2			1	
Plymouth Police Department	14	2				6	1	3	
Polk County Sheriff's Office	4							4	2
Pope County Sheriff's Office	9	1						15	
Ramsey County Sheriff's Office	49	51		2		69		109	3
Red Lake County Sheriff's Office			1					7	
Redwood County Sheriff's Office	2					2		3	1
Renville County Sheriff's Office	2								
Rice County Sheriff's Office		35				1	4	42	1
Richfield Police Department						7		29	
Robbinsdale Police Department	41	1		2		2		23	
Rochester Police Department	16				39	41	1		
Roseville Police Department	27				9	21		31	
Sauk Centre Police Department				4					
Sauk Rapids Police Department	6	1				4		21	
Scott County Sheriff's Office	30	1				3	1	15	1
Sherburne County Sheriff's Office	2			1		3	1	32	
St. Cloud Police Department	24	5		4	1	36	1	83	4
St. Francis Police Department	10	1		1		5		6	
St. Louis County Sheriff's Office	27			2	1	19	5	11	

Name of law enforcement agency	Reason code 1	Reason code 2	Reason code 3	Reason code 4	Reason code 5	Reason code 6	Reason code 7	Reason code 8	Reason code 9
St. Paul Police Department	135	9		5		12		113	2
Stearns County Sheriff's Office	17							41	8
Stevens County Sheriff's Office	5					3			
Three Rivers Park District Public Safety	1					1		28	
Todd County Sheriff's Office	2			11		2		3	2
Upper Sioux Police Department				1					
Wadena County Sheriff's Office	9	1		14			2	12	2
Wadena Police Department								3	
Waseca County Sheriff's Office						1		4	3
Washington County Sheriff's Office	36	5				15		20	
Watsonwan County Sheriff's Office	3							14	
White Bear Lake Police Department	19	2		1		3		38	
Willmar Police Department	3					6		9	
Windom Police Department	4								
Winona County Sheriff's Office	7					2		2	
Winona Police Department	4					1		9	
Woodbury Police Department	2					9		2	
Wright County Sheriff's Office	8						13	2	2
Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office	5							1	
Totals	1,725	228	7	125	115	1,010	578	2,722	93

Agency Data Submission Form

Below is the form used by agencies for UAV data submissions to the BCA.



Please fill out this form as completely as possible.

Agency Information

Name of Law Enforcement Agency	Originating Agency Identifier (ORI)

UAV Program Data for Calendar Year

Calendar Year of Submission	Cost of UAV Program for Calendar Year	Number of Times UAVs Deployed Without Warrant

Uses of UAVs Without Warrant

For each deployment of a UAV without a search warrant, provide the following on the second page of this form:

- date of the deployment
- statutory reason for the deployment

If you require space for additional entries, submit additional copies of this form.

The reasons for a UAV deployment without a search warrant allowed by statute are provided below:

Reason Code	Reason
1	during or in the aftermath of an emergency situation that involves the risk of death or bodily harm to a person
2	over a public event where there is a heightened risk to the safety of participants or bystanders
3	to counter the risk of a terrorist attack by a specific individual or organization if the agency determines that credible intelligence indicates a risk
4	to prevent the loss of life and property in natural or man-made disasters and to facilitate operational planning, rescue, and recovery operations in the aftermath of these disasters
5	to conduct a threat assessment in anticipation of a specific event
6	to collect information from a public area if there is reasonable suspicion of criminal activity
7	to collect information for crash reconstruction purposes after a serious or deadly collision occurring on a public road
8	over a public area for officer training or public relations purposes
9	for purposes unrelated to law enforcement at the request of a government entity provided that the government entity makes the request in writing to the law enforcement agency and specifies the reason for the request and proposed period of use

This form must be submitted to the BCA no later than January 15 of each calendar year.

To submit the form, click the button below or email the completed form to BCA.UAV.Submit@state.mn.us.

Submit completed form to BCA via email

MNJS-F-5039
v1.01 (011221)

#	Deployment Date	Reason Code	#	Deployment Date	Reason Code	#	Deployment Date	Reason Code	#	Deployment Date	Reason Code
1		Sal ▼	26		Sal ▼	61		Sal ▼	76		Sal ▼
2		Sal ▼	27		Sal ▼	62		Sal ▼	77		Sal ▼
3		Sal ▼	28		Sal ▼	63		Sal ▼	78		Sal ▼
4		Sal ▼	29		Sal ▼	64		Sal ▼	79		Sal ▼
5		Sal ▼	30		Sal ▼	65		Sal ▼	80		Sal ▼
6		Sal ▼	31		Sal ▼	66		Sal ▼	81		Sal ▼
7		Sal ▼	32		Sal ▼	67		Sal ▼	82		Sal ▼
8		Sal ▼	33		Sal ▼	68		Sal ▼	83		Sal ▼
9		Sal ▼	34		Sal ▼	69		Sal ▼	84		Sal ▼
10		Sal ▼	35		Sal ▼	70		Sal ▼	85		Sal ▼
11		Sal ▼	36		Sal ▼	71		Sal ▼	86		Sal ▼
12		Sal ▼	37		Sal ▼	72		Sal ▼	87		Sal ▼
13		Sal ▼	38		Sal ▼	73		Sal ▼	88		Sal ▼
14		Sal ▼	39		Sal ▼	74		Sal ▼	89		Sal ▼
15		Sal ▼	40		Sal ▼	75		Sal ▼	90		Sal ▼
16		Sal ▼	41		Sal ▼				91		Sal ▼
17		Sal ▼	42		Sal ▼				92		Sal ▼
18		Sal ▼	43		Sal ▼				93		Sal ▼
19		Sal ▼	44		Sal ▼				94		Sal ▼
20		Sal ▼	45		Sal ▼				95		Sal ▼
21		Sal ▼	46		Sal ▼				96		Sal ▼
22		Sal ▼	47		Sal ▼				97		Sal ▼
23		Sal ▼	48		Sal ▼				98		Sal ▼
24		Sal ▼	49		Sal ▼				99		Sal ▼
25		Sal ▼	50		Sal ▼				100		Sal ▼

MN.JS-F-5039
v1.01 (011221)