

• **What clearances and licenses (FAA or otherwise) are required for you to fly drones?**

VPD's drone program currently operates under FAA Part 107 regulations, and all department drone operators hold current FAA remote pilot certificates. However, the department also currently holds a COA, or Certificate of Authorization, which is an authorization issued by the FAA that allows a public agency to operate drones for a specific activity, in this case, law enforcement and emergency management purposes within the City Limits of Ventura.

• **How many drones does your department own currently?**

The department is authorized to have up to 25 drones. The number of operational drones at any given time varies significantly, but, in general, approximately 12 miniature and three enterprise grade drones are deployable.

• **How many have GPS capability?**

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All of the drones currently operated by VPD (approximately 15) have GPS capability. However, only a small fraction, specifically two of the enterprise grade drones, have the ability to record GPS coordinates in a manner consistent with evidentiary value for fireworks enforcement purposes.

• **How many have cameras/video capability?**

All of the drones currently operated by VPD (approximately 15) have cameras/video capability. However, only two of the enterprise grade drones have thermal cameras, which is helpful for operating in darkness and spotting fireworks activity.

• **How many have both GPS and cameras/video capability?**

All of the drones currently operated by VPD (approximately 15) are equipped with both cameras and the ability to receive GPS signals. Please see above for caveats regarding limits on the operational utility of these drones related to fireworks enforcement activities.

• **How many drones do you anticipate owning within the next year?**

The City has not currently allocated any funds to supplement VPD's existing fleet. Consequently, we anticipate we will own approximately 12-15 operational drones in the next year, accounting for attrition, maintenance needs and obsolescence.

From Ventura PD Reid 2/9/26