



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Mittelstadt Chief Deputy

To: Dodge County Board

From: Sheriff Dale Schmidt

Date: January 19, 2022

Subject: Officer Safety Robot for High-Risk Situations

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office would like to express that funds allocated for recruitment and retention of Dodge County Employees is our primary request for allocation of ARPA funding. Without employees, the county is not able to effectively provide services to the citizens we serve. With a rise in inflation and an increase in wages that has occurred in the private sector and comparable public sector positions, it is extremely difficult to compete and maintain employees all around the county. However, other worthy requests are being made which would also be highly beneficial to the citizens of Dodge County. Many of the proposals being brought to you could have potentially been part of the Dodge County budget, but lost revenues have impacted our operations. Lost revenues have certainly started to show themselves as a result of COVID in the Dodge County Sheriff's Office budget. As a result of inflation, increased wages of our competitors and a shrinking workforce which I believe to be related to the COVID pandemic, we have been unable to staff our jail to a level that keeps the entire facility open. As a result, we are beginning to see reduced revenues which will impact the county as a whole.

Sheriff's office staff safety is of paramount concern to me and all of our staff. As our country continues to become more dangerous in areas surrounding us such as Milwaukee and Madison, we need to be ready to respond when those dangerous illegal activities begin to spill out into our area, especially due to our proximity to these big cities. Our Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) are charged with responding to the most serious of these incidents and needs to be ready to respond in a manner that is safe for our employees and the citizens we serve. As part of our response, we are looking for funds to support purchasing a Transcend Robotics VANTAGE Robot for \$28,900 if purchased before March 31, 2022. If this purchase is made after March 31, 2022, a discount of \$5100 will no longer be available and the cost will increase to \$34,000.

Transcend Robotics produces an easy-to-use straightforward robot with a pan/tilt/zoom camera, infrared night vision, FLIR, and a 2-way communication speaker and microphone. Now more than ever it's important to have as many options available when trying to make contact with a barricaded subject without putting officers in harm's way. Additionally, this type of technology can be used in situations similar to the Beaver Dam apartment explosion without having to wait

for someone else to arrive, which could save lives. This robot is equipped with a “hot gas” delivery system attached making it possible to deploy this type of gas in a residence or other structure. “Hot gas” as you can imagine burns at a higher temperature and is much more effective than flameless or baffled gas. For this reason, it can often not be deployed manually due to the risk of fire in a residence. Even gas canisters that are used currently are likely to leave behind burn marks which this unit would prevent reducing damage and potential liability to the county while increasing safety to the public and employees. “Hot gas” has been successful where typical gas agents have not due to the amount of gas that can be dispersed. This is also one of the most affordable robots on the market with others going for over \$100,000. The below information is directly from the manufacturer’s website:

YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/C56pP6yBHy8>

NO MORE TEDIOUS CLIMBING CONTROLS

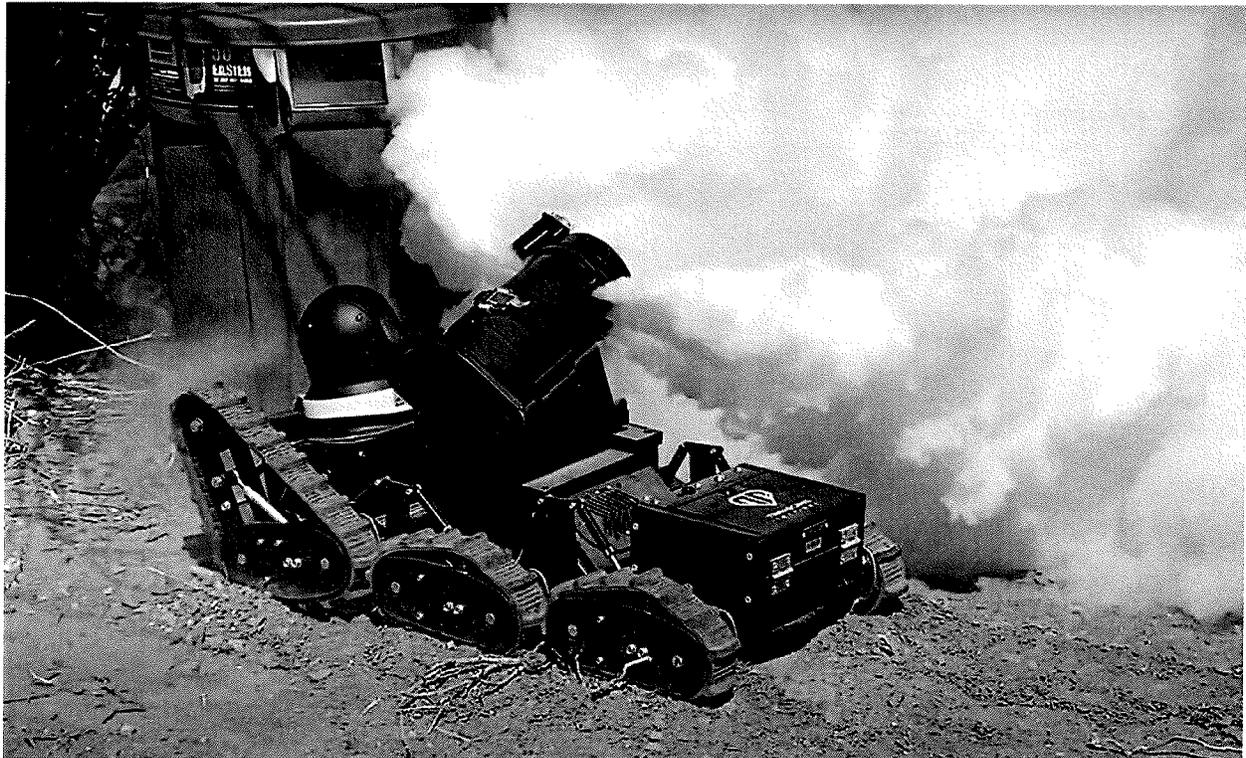
Transcend’s Vantage robot is the world’s only double-patented automatic stair and obstacle climbing robot for First Responders.

It’s the only option for First Responders that want their robot to “just figure it out” on the first attempt to climb over stairs, clothes, and junk without the burden of tedious manual controls associated with flippers and other limb systems.

This means the Vantage can be used without prior training to enter a house or building to see, hear, and learn what is happening before sending officers inside.

Specifications

- Double Patented Automatic Stair and Obstacle Climbing Chassis
- No frustrating flipper controls, just move forward to climb stairs and obstacles
- Cameras:
 - Drive Camera (Night Vision)
 - Pan Tilt Zoom (25x zoom, 90/15 degree up/down tilt, auto infrared night vision)
 - FLIR Thermal
- ~ 3 hours constant driving
- ~ 12 hours monitoring / intermittent driving
- ~ 2,500 ft. LOS / ~500 ft. NLOS
- 100+ lb. payload
- Zero degree turning radius
- Turns on carpet
- Drives over clothes
- Two Way Audio (Push To Talk)
- Key Ignition
- Easy Battery Swapping (Robot & Controller)



Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if you have any questions.