

ACTION ITEM MEMO

Port of Tacoma Commission



Item No: 6C
Meeting Date: 10/20/26

DATE: October 12, 2026
TO: Port of Tacoma Commission
FROM: Eric Johnson, Executive Director
Sponsor: Erin Galeno, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
Project Manager: Colin Millan, Director, Port Security
SUBJECT: Port Security Grant Program 2026 Award Acceptance

A. ACTION REQUESTED

Request authorization for the Port of Tacoma Executive Director, or his designee, to establish acceptance of \$750,864.00 in grant award funding with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) 2026, which includes a 25% or \$250,289.00 Port match for a total authorization amount of \$1,001,153.00.

Strategic Plan Initiative

OS 1: Continue solid Port financial success and fiduciary performance.

OS 2: Protect the public's investment by maintaining existing assets and positioning them for future growth.

B. BACKGROUND

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) to strengthen security at the nation's strategic ports. Administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the program funds state, local, and private-sector partners in managing port-wide risks and protecting critical surface transportation infrastructure from terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies. Since the program began in 2002, the Port of Tacoma has received approximately \$37 million in PSGP funding.

C. PROJECTS AWARDED

1. Handheld Portable Radio Replacements - Grant funding will replace approximately thirty portable radios that have exceeded their useful service life and add spare units to support reliable communications and uninterrupted security operations. Replacing the equipment will improve radio availability, reduce the risk of service disruptions, and provide backup units when radios require maintenance or repair.

- 2. Drone (UAS) Detection System** - Grant funding will support the purchase of drone detection technology through a multi-sensor platform capable of detecting unauthorized drones, identifying drone and pilot locations, assessing potential threats, and distinguishing authorized activity. Ongoing operating costs will be supported through a new tariff once the system is operational.
- 3. Procurement of Skydio Drones** - Grant funding will be allocated towards the purchase of two additional Skydio drones to expand the Port's aerial coverage, improve equipment availability, and support faster incident response across Port properties. The drones will continue the Port's efforts to enhance situational awareness in large or difficult-to-access areas and support environmental monitoring and incident assessments.

D. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Project Description	Federal (75%)	Port Share (25%)	Total
1. Handheld Portable Radio Replacements	251,822	83,941	335,763
2. Drone (UAS) Detection System	262,820	87,607	350,427
3. Procurement of Skydio Drones	236,222	78,741	314,963
TOTALS	\$750,864	\$250,289	\$1,001,153

Source of Funds

Source of funds will be grant award of \$750,864.00 from the Department of Homeland Security, Port Security Grant Program Fiscal Year 2026. The remaining \$250,289.00 is included in the 2026-2030 Capital Investment Plan.

Projects will follow the Port's contracting and procurement policies and federal requirements related to the management and administration of federal funds. Grant income will be recognized as costs are incurred and reimbursement is requested.