



All About the Sheriff's Helicopter

We are told that tax-payers are not paying for the Sheriff's new Helicopter so we should not be concerned. But the question remains: **Who IS Paying for the Helicopter, and Why?** Because KCSO already had good Air Support service.

Here are a few things that **You Should Know about the Sheriff's Helicopter and its Donors.**

- KCSO does not need its own helicopter for Search and Rescue. There are **four other regional helicopter agencies** that are better equipped for S & R, emergencies, and medical transport.
- The Spokane Regional Air Support Unit (S-RASU) is based only 25 miles from KC-RASU. Spokane's program has three helicopters with advanced S & R equipment, and KCSO used its services for only \$10K per year.
- Specialized unmanned aircraft (drones) can perform many Air Support services at a **fraction of the cost and risk of a helicopter**. And the BOCC have said they don't believe a helicopter is necessary for L.E.
- KC-RASU is a privately controlled NFP corporation, with advanced surveillance technology and access to KCSO, **but its donors, finances, and operations are not public**, and are not subject to FOIA.
- The KC-RUSA is said to operate at almost no cost to the county, but KCSO has already contributed over \$100K for equipment, paid for insurance, and could be asked to pay more in the future.
- There is evidence that some donors to KC-RASU may be seeking favors from County Officials.
 - Soon after the **CDA Tribe** donated to the helicopter, Norris agreed to end KCSO patrols of tribal lands and Mattare helped rezone reservation land over property owner objections.
 - Soon after **Labor Consultants International**, a firm which obtains H-1 and H-2 Visas for immigrant workers, donated to the sheriff's helicopter, Norris testified in support of H-1 and H2 visas, while claiming to oppose illegal immigration.
 - One of the KCRASU pilots is a **Motorola sales rep**, and the Sheriff's 2025 budget happens to allocate monies for 36 Motorola License Plate Readers. How convenient.
- Most disturbing of all, one of the helicopter's major donors is a **Las Vegas billionaire** who recently bought several large parcels in Hayden near the airport. What is being planned? **Hayden officials won't say.**

And, this same billionaire hosted Mattare and Norris at a Nevada fundraiser in June, and has donated to their campaigns directly and through surrogates. **Billionaires are useful allies.**

