COUNTY DEPARTMENT AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Fire & Emergency Services	Presenter(s):	David Scarbrough
Meeting Date:	Wednesday, January 6, 2010	Type of Request:	New Business

Wording for the Agenda:

Discussion with GIS Steering Committee regarding grant opportunities for GIS aerial photography.

Background/History/Details:

Fayette County has an opportunity to participate in a project of aerial photography which is being coordinated through the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) with considerable cost savings.

As detailed in the memorandum supporting this request, discussion will occur regarding when the flight schedule will occur, funding sources and cost of the aerial photography to the County, elements obtained from the previous aerial project that will be incorporated into this new project, the company chosen by ARC to complete the project, the need for aerial photography of Fayette County, and the GIS Steering Committee's recommendations with respect to this project.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Staff is requesting discussion and direction from the Board from this request. If the Board determines participation in this project is acceptable a draft letter of commitment will be provided to the Chairman for his signature.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Funding for the request is relative based on how, or if, the Board decides during the request.

Has this issue come before the Commissioners in the past?	No	If so, when?	
Do you need audio-visual for the presentation?	No	Back-up Material Submitted?	

STAFF USE ONLY

Approved by Finance	Yes	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	Approved by County Clerk	Yes
Administrator's Approval	Yes		

Staff Notes:

Memorandum

To: Fayette County Board of Commissioners
Jack Krakeel, County Administrator

From: GIS Steering Committee

Date: January 6, 2010

Subject: Aerial Photography

We have an opportunity to participate in a project of aerial photography being coordinated through the Atlanta Regional Commission with considerable cost savings. The flight schedule being flown is in late January, early February 2010. In addition, USGS (U.S. Geological Survey) received $140 million as a part of the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act, of which $14.6 million is slated for mapping imagery. We have been contacted by USGS and told they will fund 25% of the cost of the aerial photography project as a matching grant to participating counties of which we qualify. Our current 5 year capital improvement plan contains aerial photography for 2014 with $220,000 allocated for the improvement. There are components from the previous project which we will be able to re-use such as the digital elevation model that account for some of the cost differential you will notice when examining the figures. Additionally, previous digital orthophotography cost was identified to be $196.00 per square mile.

The proposed cost per square mile (197 sq miles) is $126.00 per square mile for Fayette County.
This translates to: 197 x $126.00 = $24,822.00
This means Fayette County cost would be $18,616.50 with $6,205.50 being funded by USGS. The aerial photography does or would provide the same degree of delineation that we obtained with the previous digital orthophotography. We would receive the same scale and resolution that we currently have. We feel participation makes fiscal sense.

Kucera International Inc. is the company that has been chosen to do the aerial project after the RFP was sent out several months ago by the Atlanta Regional Commission.

The total cost of the current imagery project was $140,000.00 and the imagery is 4 years old having been flown in March of 2006.

Aerial photography is a vital component of GIS and a mainstay layer associated with our parcel layer information. Several departments have provided examples of how the aerials are frequently used and include the following benefits.

- Identification of new construction additions, it is not uncommon for improvements to be made without permits. (ASSESSORS'S OFFICE)
- Timber harvesting identification to prevent loss of tax dollars. (ASSESSORS'S OFFICE)
- Breaching of Conservation-Use Covenants. (ASSESSORS'S OFFICE)
- Helps distinguish proper alignment of property lines. (ASSESSORS'S OFFICE)
- Preliminary design of road construction improvements and transportation projects. (ENGINEERING)
- Public works has noted they reference aerials daily to verify structures, roads, and paths as well as checking striping at intersections. (ENGINEERING)
- Water system can overlay their valve locations for more accurate information in water main breaks. (WATER SYSTEM)
- Stormwater Management from being able to look at impervious areas and land features. (STORMWATER)
- Stormwater Management will use impervious data to accurately determine potential Stormwater Utility rate structure. (STORMWATER)
- FEMA Community Rating System requires aerials for determination of structure locations. (STORMWATER)
- Fire Department uses aerials to pre-determine long hose lay distances in areas where homes have extremely long driveways. (FIRE)

The GIS Steering committee recommends the following.

1. <u>We recommend participation in the project by an initial letter of commitment to USGS, Atlanta Regional Commission and Kucera International Inc. consistent with and conditional to the grant funding and price scheme.</u>

2. <u>We further would recommend that even without the 25% grant that Fayette County should participate at the full cost price of $24,822.00</u>

3. <u>The adoption of a schedule which should place aerial photography in a capital improvement project rotation of every 4 years based on the identified benefits and that $40,000.00 remain in the 2014 capital improvement for aerials.</u>

A draft letter of commitment to be provided for the Commission Chairman's signature if the Board determines participation is acceptable.