

Keri O'Brien

From: Loretta DiTocco <lorettamdt@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 29, 2025 4:59 PM
To: Sean Brandenburg; City Clerk External E-Mail
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concern About the Mobile Command Center Purchase

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Dear Chief Brandenburg,

I am writing as a Key West resident to ask for more information about the Police Department's request to purchase a Mobile Command Center costing more than one million dollars.

Because Key West is a small island community of about 25,000 people, many of us are trying to understand why such a large and expensive vehicle is needed. I have not heard of any recent emergency or event where police operations failed due to the lack of a mobile command unit. If there are examples, I would appreciate learning about them.

Monroe County already has emergency command resources, and the City's Emergency Operations Center is designed to handle hurricanes, evacuations, and large events. It would be helpful to know why these existing tools are not enough for KWPD's needs.

Even when grants help pay for a purchase, the City is still responsible for long-term costs like fuel, storage, maintenance, repairs, and equipment upgrades. These recurring expenses can become significant over time. Understanding those long-term costs is important for residents.

Many communities our size use less expensive options, such as command trailers or shared regional units. I would like to know whether these alternatives were considered and why they were not chosen.

To help the public better understand the request, would you please share:

1. The specific problems the Mobile Command Center would solve
2. How often it is expected to be used each year
3. The estimated yearly operating and maintenance costs
4. A summary of any alternative options that were reviewed

I want our officers to have the tools they need to stay safe and serve the public. At the same time, I hope we can make sure this purchase is necessary, cost-effective, and the best use of public funds.

Thank you for taking the time to address these questions. I appreciate your service to our community and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Loretta M Di Tocco

Key West, Fl 33040