



Sheriff J. Al Cannon, Jr., County of Charleston, South Carolina

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PRESS RELEASE

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Sheriff's Office to Display Newest Helicopter

(Charleston County, SC) On March 13, 2018 the Sheriff's Office will unveil the newest addition to the Air Support Unit. Charleston County has recently purchased a 2012 Bell 407GX to replace the outdated 1970s Bell helicopter acquired through the 1033 military surplus program. This newer helicopter has increased passenger capacity, with the ability to accommodate seven occupants as opposed to the previous four-person capacity. The newer model utilizes a single-engine, four-blade rotor, which is more efficient than the previous two-blade model. It was purchased from the Bell Helicopter Company, and had previously been in use by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office in Florida. The final cost of the outfitted aircraft will be approximately 3.4 million dollars.

This helicopter will be furnished with a newer model FLIR infrared imaging system, and a microwave down link system that allows real-time video streaming to ground personnel. This technology can be utilized by either the pilots or by rear passengers operating a rear control panel. In addition, pilots will employ a Churchill navigation system that provides street overlays of the surrounding area. The landing skids are equipped with flotation devices in the event of a water-based emergency landing.

On March 13, 2018 at 5:15 p.m., the helicopter will land for County Council and media viewing at the parking lot of the Lonnie Hamilton III (Charleston County Public Services) building at 4045 Bridgeview Drive in North Charleston.

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