



SWORN MEMBER VACANCY

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department employment practices are designed to hire, promote, and assign members without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, limited English proficiency, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, disability, or low-income level.

Date: January 9, 2026

JOB VACANCY MEMORANDUM NO. 26-01

TITLE: Drone as First Responders Pilot/Operator

ELEMENT OF ASSIGNMENT: Operational Support Division, Aviation Unit

VACANCY STATUS: Vacant

EXPIRATION DATE: January 23, 2026

REQUIREMENTS:

The Drone as First Responder (DFR) program is designed to deploy Department resources to calls for service in an expedited and efficient manner through the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS). The program enhances situational awareness for responding officers, supports informed decision making, improves officer and public safety, and enables certain calls for service to be resolved or supplemented through alternative response methods.

Members assigned to the DFR section primarily perform duties in an office or operations center environment, utilizing computer based systems, flight control software, and communications equipment. Periodic outdoor work is required for tasks such as UAS dock installation, system testing, maintenance, and site inspections. The position requires the ability to transition between administrative, technical, and operational responsibilities in support of continuous DFR operations

For this process, sworn members with no change in employment status, must have an Academy graduation date on or before **11/22/2022** and an appointment date on or before **11/22/2022**, as recorded in HRD.

Sworn members who have separated from employment and/or lateral sworn members, must be re-appointed or appointed on or before **11/22/2022**, as recorded in HRD.

Years of service completed with KCPD, or any other law enforcement agency, prior to a sworn member's current appointment/re-appointment date will not be counted to establish the years of service eligibility requirement."

Essential Functions and Requirements

- Safely operate and remotely pilot unmanned aircraft systems during Drone as First Responder missions in full compliance with Federal Aviation Administration regulations, departmental policy, airspace restrictions, and operational risk management standards.
- Conduct rapid aerial response and assessment for calls for service, including crimes in progress, missing or endangered persons, perimeter security, pursuits, critical incidents, and disaster response, providing timely situational awareness to field personnel and supervisors.
- Maintain effective real time communication with dispatch personnel, supervisors, and responding officers to relay live video, intelligence updates, and safety related information throughout incident operations.
- Operate and manage automated launch, recovery, and docking systems, including pre flight inspections, system monitoring, and post flight procedures to ensure mission readiness and system reliability.
- Perform routine inspections, preventative maintenance, battery management, firmware updates, and basic troubleshooting of unmanned aircraft, payloads, control systems, and supporting infrastructure.
- Accurately document flight operations, mission outcomes, maintenance actions, and system usage in required logs, reports, and digital recordkeeping systems in accordance with policy, evidentiary standards, and audit requirements.
- Demonstrate proficiency in advanced operational environments, including night operations, thermal imaging, mapping, and other mission specific sensor capabilities in support of tactical and investigative objectives.
- Ensure compliance with privacy protections, civil liberties standards, and data retention requirements while responsibly managing the collection, storage, use, and dissemination of aerial imagery and related digital evidence.
- Obtain and maintain Federal Aviation Administration Part 107 Remote Pilot Certification to operate drones in support of Drone as First Responder operations, with certification required within three months of assignment.
- Maintain reliable and predictable attendance and demonstrate the ability to work flexible hours on a rotating schedule in order to support continuous operational coverage.
- Willingly accept a two-year assignment and meet all professional standards required to serve in the role, including the absence of any Giglio or Brady related issues that would negatively reflect on the Department or hinder testimony in court.
- Demonstrate the ability to work in high or confined spaces and to safely use ladders when required for unmanned aircraft system dock installation, maintenance, and site inspections.
- Communicate effectively both orally and in writing with dispatch personnel, supervisors, field units, and external partners.
- This class specification is not intended to be all inclusive and is designed to identify the essential functions and requirements of the position. Incumbents may be required to perform additional job related duties consistent with the role. All essential functions and requirements will be evaluated

as necessary to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act as amended by the Amendments Act of 2008 and the Missouri Human Rights Act, including reasonable accommodation where applicable.

All interested qualified law enforcement members who meet the above requirements must submit a Request for Transfer, Form 4 P.D., through their chain of command. In addition, one copy must be submitted to the Human Resources Division and one copy along with a resume and a completed Selection Process Candidate Review Form submitted to **Captain Pete Cutcliff in Drone as First Responders (DFR)** no later than **JANUARY 23, 2026**.

Officers/Detectives who meet the above qualifications will be contacted individually to schedule in interviews.

Captain Justin Pinkerton

Captain Justin Pinkerton
Commander
Employment Unit