



The county's address for notification is:

July 14, 2025

Mary Beth Vaughn
mvaughn@cuyahogacounty.us
Cuyahoga County Business Services Manager
2079 East 9th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
mvaughn@cuyahogacounty.us

Dear Ms. Vaughn,

This document and attachments comprise the combined quarterly report on the Northeast Ohio Information Exchange project abbreviated hereafter as the NEOFIX Drone as 1st Responders Project, funded through the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Safety and Justice.

This combined document serves as catch up on the quarterly reporting requirements. The delay in reporting is attributed to our careful custodianship of the original grants provided by Cuyahoga County through Council which ran between 2023 and 2024 calendar years along with additional funding by the state of Ohio for the NEOFIX project in 2024.

Consequently, the NEOFIX project was able to defer charging the funds provided through the Department of Public Safety and Justice for the NEOFIX Drone as 1st Responders Project grant until second calendar quarter (April, 2025).

The format narrative of this document is drawn from the reporting items listed in section 4 of the agreement between Cuyahoga County and Baldwin Wallace University for funding the NEOFIX:

Recipient shall submit quarterly reports to the Clerk of the Cuyahoga County Council. Reports shall be submitted no later than thirty (30) days after the end of each calendar quarter. In each report, recipient shall provide the following:

1. An itemized list of all expenditures made during the preceding quarter.
2. An itemized list of project goals achieved during the preceding quarter;
3. An itemized list of project goals in progress as of the end of the preceding quarter;
4. An itemized list of project goals to be completed during the current quarter and an itemized list of project goals to be completed in the next quarter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart C. Mendel'.

Stuart C Mendel, Ph.D.
Affiliate Professor and NEOFIX Project Director



Summary

Briefly, the NEOFIX is a public private partnership, where public sector first-in resources will be amplified well beyond a dollar-for-dollar return for an emerging \$10B private industry benefiting residents of the County and the state of Ohio. NEOFIX will provide public safety in Cuyahoga County with a *Common Operating Picture* of drone operations, supporting safe operations and counter-UAS. The NEOFIX puts the County and its airspace within the leading the communities in the nation, applicable as a model program for the state of Ohio.

This combined quarterly report on the progress of the NEOFIX Drone as 1st Responders Project depicts uninterrupted work described in the original proposal for the NEOFIX project to the Cuyahoga County District 2 and County Council in Fall 2022.

The formal activity covered by this report is January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. Prior to these dates, no activity nor charges were attributed to this grant, for the rationale mentioned above.

The work of the NEOFIX Drone as 1st Responders Project builds on the long-term strategy to align and leverage Cuyahoga County's investment in drone ready critical infrastructure.

Our initial work of the NEOFIX Drone as 1st Responders Project has been to place equipment to synchronize the public infrastructure with public safety uses such as drone as a first responder as a first step toward emergency medical response and medical supply centered on the priority regions of Cuyahoga County. We are informed by and working in consultation with the County Sheriffs and Emergency Management departments, and other public and private stakeholders.

As of this writing we have completed: 1) sensors equipment procurement and 2) begun sensors deployment, 3) furthered coordination with regional public safety dispatch functions 4) while built buy in from likely departments and legislators of the state of Ohio for this critical and essential infrastructure.

This *combined quarterly* report can be accessed by visiting: <https://oh-fix.com/index.html> clicking "About," and then Government sub-tab of the pull-down menu.



NEOFIX Quarterly Narrative on Performance

Past performance

In the period January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, multiple preparation activities took place.

- consulting with County public safety officials on the coverage areas for the early deployment of sensors.
- creating a process for drone sensors procurement of high tech droner operations flight sensors.
- development and distribution of a vendor RFP for vendor qualifications and pricing quotes, and delivery.
- Review of proposals, including scoring of proposals.
- Feedback and price affirmation with vendor submissions
- purchase order, delivery and invoicing processes.
- Inventory storage and control.
- Deployment planning in conjunction with County Public Safety staff and other stakeholders.

Since the equipment is not mass produced and requires further field comparisons in multiple situational uses, the NEOFIX procurement included goals for multiple vendors to receive awards to compare reliability and to collect performance data necessary for future purchases.

To advance the support of the NEOFIX as critical infrastructure for the Cuyahoga County and beyond, a series of presentations by NEOFIX were made for the purposes of “drone as first responders” (DFR) and drone in medical delivery use-cases for broad adoption. These include regional programs and increasingly throughout the state of Ohio to draw funding and influence to the NEOFIX project.

Table I Annotated formally scheduled benchmark activities

January 13, 2025	NEOFIX Retreat to outline procurement process
January 22, 2025	Meeting NEOFIX stakeholders for sensor deployment.
January 30, 2025	Garfield Heights sensor equipment deployment. Discussion
February 6, 2025	Manufacturing Works/Critical Ops/NEOFIX “Supply Chain and Workforce Alignment Project” (SWAP) Plan project development centered on the Aerozone District
February 12 and 14	Briefing with local and regional representative on drone sensor placements
February 20, 2025	Drone simulation and testing at Middleburgh Heights Fire Station
February 26, 2025	Interested Party Testimony- House Development Committee HB 96 — FY26-27 State Operating Budget
February 27, 2025	NEOFIX panel discussion at CCC-Corp College/Cleveland Engineer Society
March 3, 2025	NEOFIX Sensors Procurement process initiated



March 10, 2025	NEOFIX Sensor Procurement Vendor applicant Q&A
March 19 or April 25, 2025	Aerozone Alliance partner meeting “future of CLE Airport and Energy Infr.”
April 3, 2025	Follow up with selected Procurement Vendors to solicit firm bids
April 15, 2025	Announce vendor decisions, begin the process of creating P.O thru BW business office.
April 30, 2025	DriveOhio/FlyOhio annual meeting at ODOT main office in Columbus
May 6, and May 22, 2025	Planning and presentation at Critical Infrastructure presentation at MAPS Air Museum at CAK.
May 14, 2025	Ohio Senate testimony on HB 96.
May-June 2025	Sensor equipment received at BW from procurement.
June 3, 2025	NEOFIX Table presentation at Ohio Chamber Annual meeting
June 13, 2025	Women in Aviation NEOFIX Table presentation at Burke Lakefront Airport
June 17, 2025	Meet with Port Authority for sensor deployment and stakeholder develop.
June 30, 2025	Prep for sensor deployment at Garfield Heights Fire Station

Table II Operational goals for 2025

2025 Goal 1	Develop and implement procurement process
2025 Goal 2	Identify deployment locations and protocols for deployment
2025 Goal 3	Initiate deployment and operations of equipment.
2025 Goal 4	Obtain further funding to advance the NEOFIX

2025 Goal 1 narrative progress

First and second calendar year quarter work continued prior work in 2023 and 2024 with engaged participants from three working groups (Data, design and configuration, sensors integration and planning; and public policy) to deepen the NEOFIX data instrumentation and data collection.

The NEO-FIX is deployed as of 12/20/2024. Updates include:

- data flowing from KBKL's AMS box
- Advisory migration/transfer actions
- Advisory draft retention
- User Admin improvements
- Agency Admin improvements
- API updates
- Various bug fixes

An RFP with technical specifications for sensors was let in March 2025, to fulfill procurement requirements. The was a quick turnaround and review process. The equipment bids enable the purchase and the deployment of equipment during Summer 2025. Additional funding has been secured from the state of Ohio, to advance the project within and beyond the County boundaries.



2025 Goal 2 narrative progress

First and Second calendar year quarterly work continued prior work of 2023 and 2024 NEOFIX. In cooperation with the Cuyahoga County office of Emergency Management, there will be a phased deployment of sensors at or near the Cleveland Lakefront west toward the Rocky River Metroparks police station, and as suggested by the County Sheriffs' and public safety officials through the center of the County, roughly corresponding to the corridor between I-71 and I-77. Deployment will take place as equipment and permits are made available during spring 2025.

2025 Goal 3 narrative progress

First and Second calendar year quarterly work continues the prior work performed during 2023 and 2024. Our overarching goal for 2025 is to deploy and active the NEOFIX coverage area with the sensors purchased for this purpose, to produce an active and reliable sensor array. This will serve as a model for the adoption for the state of Ohio. We anticipate this goal to be met within calendar year 2025.

2025 Goal 4 narrative progress.

Receive funding from the grant applications to enable NEOFIX to obtain additional Cuyahoga County dedicated ground-based sensors, as necessitated and to advance the program in adjacent Counties of Ohio.

With our partner organization Manufacturing Works, we participate in Bi-weekly meetings convened by TEAMNEO to develop funding rationale from JobsOhio and the Ohio department of Economic Development. This gradual and incremental cultivation has the intent to position the NEOFIX as critical regional and statewide infrastructure as the foundation for business development in civilian and commercial Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) industry, training, certification and jobs centered on the Aerozone District of Cuyahoga County.

Looking further ahead into 2025, the Cuyahoga County focused NEOFIX will continue to seek infrastructure project support from multiple State of Ohio (departments of Economic Development and Homeland Security for example).

Table III NEOFIX Drone as 1st Responders Project BUDGET

2-41978 (Cuy. County Funding)	
Salary	\$11,388.57
Fringe	\$894.00
Lighthouse Avionix	\$58,800.00
MatrixSpace	\$30,000.00
Sunhillo	\$18,040.00
Aozora Aviation. Aircsentinel	\$3,000.00
Airport Monitoring Systems	\$1,995.00
Travel	\$882.43
Total:	\$125,000.00



Table IIIb Project to date balances (actual)

2-41978 NEOFIX GL Balance 7/14/25			
FY25 Revenue	\$125,000.00	FY25 Expenses	\$114,891.16
		FY26 Expenses	\$646.16
Total Revenue	\$125,000.00	Total Expense	\$115,537.32
		Encumbered	\$-
	Funds Available	\$9,462.68	
	Remaining Travel	\$250.60	
	Projected Remaining Payroll	\$8400.08	
	Projected Remaining Fringe Benefits	\$812.00	
	Total Projected Expenses:	\$9,462.68	
		Grant Revenue	\$125,000.00
		Expenses	\$115,537.32
		Remaining Balance	\$9,462.68

Budget narrative

2025 expense allocations for the *combined* quarters include acquisition of equipment and deployment development. New grant dollars enabled the leverage of the NEOFIX Drone as 1st Responders Project, funded through the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Safety and Justice and shifting of expenses to calendar year 2025.

Grant funds received for a complimentary project from the state of Ohio's Onetime Strategic Community Investment Fund (OSCIF) and careful stewardship by Baldwin Wallace University allowed for a pause in the draw of County ARPA Funds for compensation at the budgeted rate of allocation originally proposed, with the non-expended allocation pushed forward into first and second quarter of 2025.

A final accounting of the carryforward funds on these earlier ARPA sourced grants was be provided to Cuyahoga County in a "final NEOFIX project report" June 30, 2025.

Tabularized progress toward goals

Table IV. An itemized list of project goals to be completed

2025



Monthly	Monthly User Group Meeting Ongoing Onboarding of USS/UTM Partners Ongoing onboarding of BW partner agency systems Continued collection, mapping, loading of data assets. Review, extend, update and maintain data mappings and supplemental language. Funded projects development State of Ohio advocacy to secure infrastructure endorsement and funding Management of procured and deployed equipment. Vendor collaboration and data governance
Quarterly Thereafter	Operations System Maintenance and Security Minimum quarterly release of updated application and new features State of Ohio advocacy to secure infrastructure endorsement and funding

TABLE V. Post ARPA Grant Funding Goals and Activities

2025 and beyond	
Quarterly and Thereafter	Sensor integration Regional Multi-state AAM collaborative System Maintenance and Ongoing Security Compliance Minimum quarterly release of updated application and new features State of Ohio Integration and funding support.