



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS

JIM SKINNER, SHERIFF

Date: 03/07/2022
To: Mitch Selman, Assistant Chief
From: Andrew Hatch, Captain
Re: Personal Watercraft (PWC)

Lake Lavon's 245 billion gallons of water occupies 21,400 acres of central Collin County. Its 121 miles of shoreline hosts 16 lake parks, 19 boat ramps, and 4 million visitors per year. The Collin County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit has patrolled Lake Lavon since the summer of 2010 averaging 200 calls per year, 4,500 safety inspections, and contacting more than 16,000 people each summer.

The Marine Unit is beginning to see the effects of Collin County's explosive growth. Reckless boaters have increased by 50% over the last 5 years. This is attributed to the popularity of the personal watercraft (PWC) commonly known as jet skis. In 2020, 82,000 new PWC's and 130,000 used PWC's were sold across the U.S. Texas is the second largest market for PWC purchases. Over the last 5 years PWC's accounted for 47% of the reckless boater calls for service handed by the Sheriff's Office. During the same time frame, the Sheriff's Office responded to 44 boat accidents. 100% of the accidents involving injury also involved a PWC.

Texas Parks and Wildlife reports that boating accidents in 2020 were at a 30-year all-time high. Additionally they reported a 61% increase in fatal accidents in 2020. PWC's are agile, powerful, and affordable. When you combine these factors with inexperienced operators on congested waterways the potential for accidents or injury skyrockets.

PWC's are a common sight on Lake Lavon. They generally operate near lake parks, swim beaches, or other areas where people or boats congregate. Safe and efficient enforcement of these vessels is best accomplished with a PWC. The acquisition of a law enforcement PWC is an investment in the safety of those who utilize Lake Lavon.

The attached documents detail the equipment and associated costs with the implementation of a PWC program.

Watercraft

- Sea Doo 2022 RXT-X 300



Make Ready

- Sea-Doo up-fitter, Prowler, is an authorized PWC distributor and installer (quote attached)
- LED lighting kit/emergency lights
- Navigation light kit
- Garmin Sonar
- 2 place watercraft trailer
- Graphics
- PFD x 2
- Storage Covers

Recurring Costs

- Fuel
 - 650-1100 gallons per PWC per deployment period (35-64 days)
- Annual service
 - Recommended hourly service
 - Pre-season PMC
 - Winterization

Ski Collar

- The ski collar (pictured below) is an aftermarket accessory that prevents damage to the PWC and other vessels during violator or inspection contact while on the water. The ski collar also provides additional buoyancy, supporting the craft should it sustain hull damage and water impingement

