

# Designing for DFR Program Value

## Katrina Armistead



# Session Objectives

## Designing for DFR Program Value

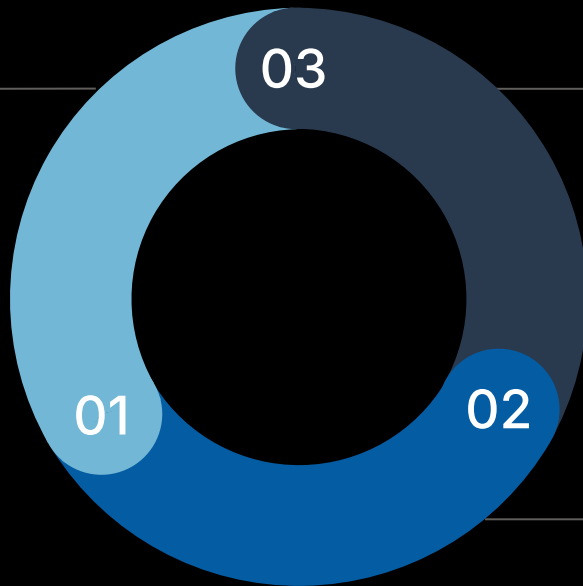
1. Understand the importance of tracking ROI for your program
2. Identify relevant use cases & where to start
3. Adapt an example framework for your agency goals



# Why is understanding program value important?

## Drone programs are expensive.

- Hardware + Software
- Infrastructure and Installation
- Integration Work
- Training
- Staffing
- Real-time Information Center / Remote Operations Center
- Sustainment Cost



## Evaluate results over time

Are you meeting the goals you set?

## Communicate the benefits to critical stakeholders

How does the business case incorporate bigger organizational goals?

# What is your agency hoping to achieve?



## Save lives & increase safety

Real-time situational information without sending officers blindly into danger



## Improve response times

Arrive on scene in less than 2 minutes



## Save money

Recover dispatch labor with greater call efficiency, minimize claims, avoid medical leave



## Reduce use of force incidents

More information, faster allows for the time & distance needed to make better tactical decisions



## Improve community relationships

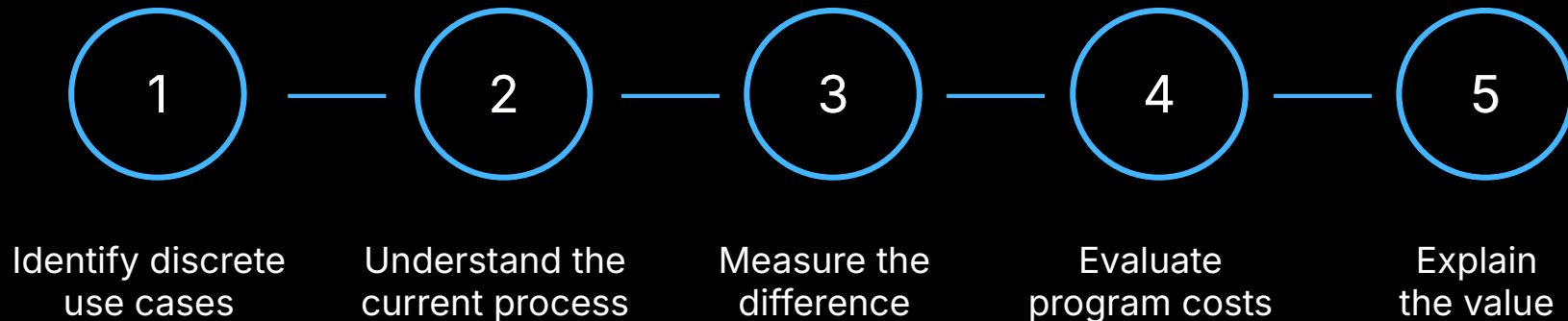
Capture crime in progress, locating subjects and vehicles, resulting in higher solve rates



## Address mental health and wellness

Loss of life is devastating, priceless, and irreplaceable

# The ROI Framework



# The ROI Framework



Identify discrete  
use cases

Where are you on the  
path to adoption?

What improvements  
are critically important  
to your agency?

# Types of DFR Operations



Specialized  
Units

Crash Scene Reconstruction

Crime Scene/Fire Investigation Reconstruction

Search and Rescue

SWAT (barricaded subjects, high risk warrants)

Overwatch at Fire and Hazmat Incidents

Incident Pre-Planning

Patrol-Led  
Deployment

Patrol-Led  
Drone as First  
Responder

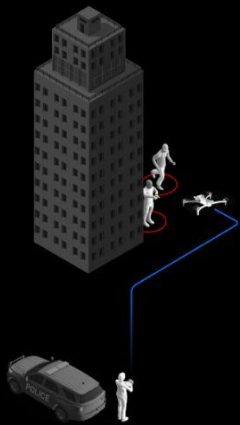
Crew/Dock-  
Based Drone as  
First Responder  
(Piloted)

Dock-Based Drone  
as First Responder  
(Autonomous)

# Types of DFR Operations



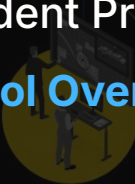
Specialized  
Units



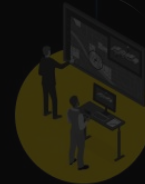
Patrol-Led  
Deployment

Crash Scene Reconstruction  
Crime Scene/Fire Investigation Reconstruction  
Search and Rescue  
SWAT (barricaded subjects, high risk warrants)  
Overwatch at Fire and Hazmat Incidents  
Incident Pre-Planning

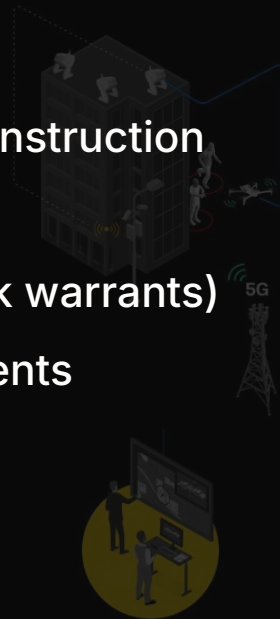
## Patrol Overwatch



Patrol-Led  
Drone as First  
Responder



Crew/Dock-  
Based Drone as  
First Responder  
(Piloted)



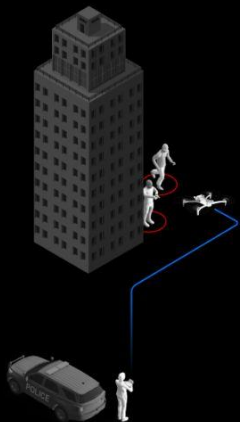
Dock-Based Drone  
as First Responder  
(Autonomous)



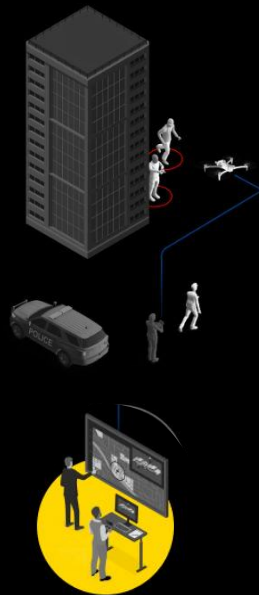
# Types of DFR Operations



Specialized  
Units



Patrol-Led  
Deployment



Patrol-Led  
Drone as First  
Responder

Crash Scene Reconstruction

Crime Scene/Fire Investigation  
Reconstruction

Search and Rescue

SWAT (barricaded subjects, high risk  
warrants)

Overwatch at Fire and Hazmat  
Incidents

Incident Pre-Planning

Patrol Overwatch  
Grow/Dock-  
Based Drone as  
First Responder  
(Piloted)

Dock-Based Drone  
as First Responder  
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# Types of DFR Operations

Crash Scene Reconstruction

Crime Scene/Fire Investigation Reconstruction

Search and Rescue

SWAT (barricaded subjects, high risk warrants)

Overwatch at Fire and Hazmat Incidents

Incident Pre-Planning

Patrol Overwatch

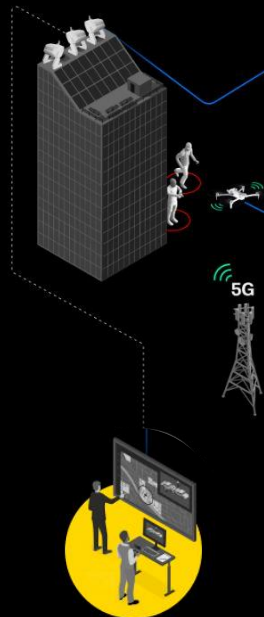
**Call for Service Response**

**Auto Theft Prevention**

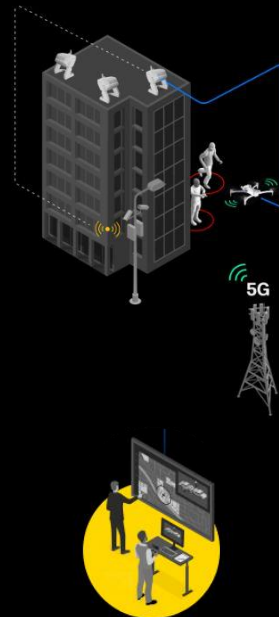
Specialized  
Units

Patrol-Led  
Deployment

Patrol-Led  
Drone as First  
Responder

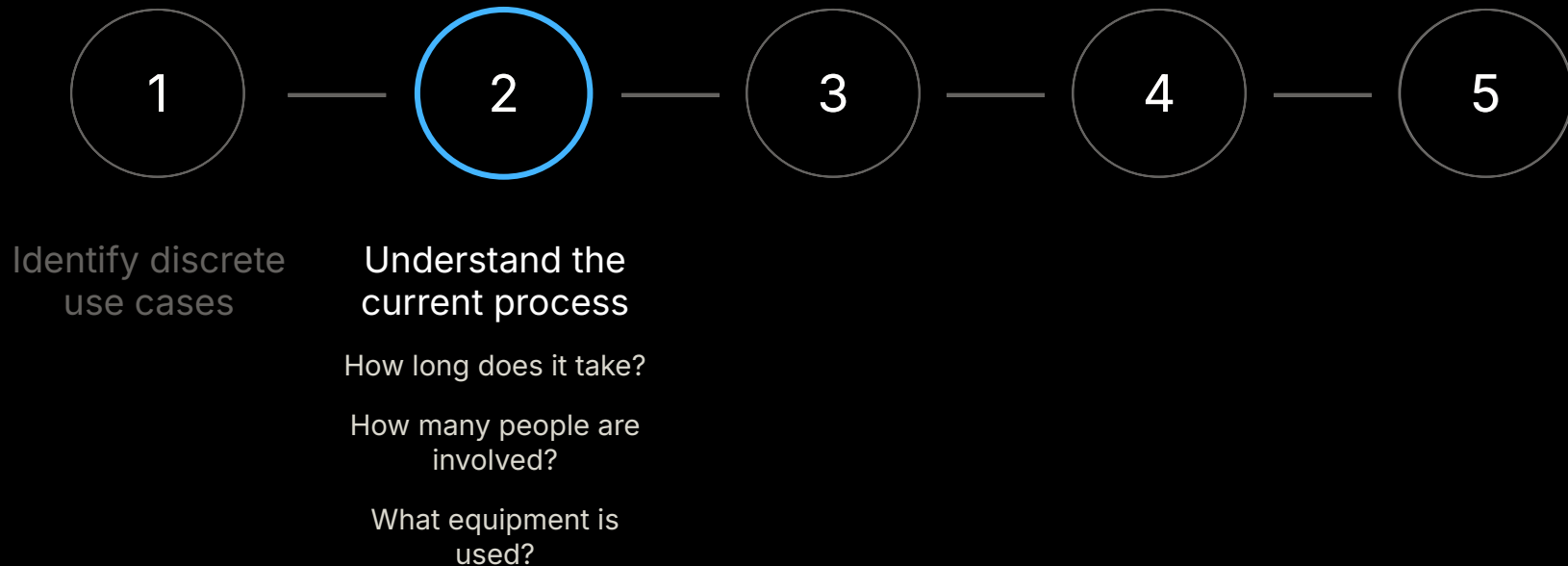


Crew/Dock-  
Based Drone as  
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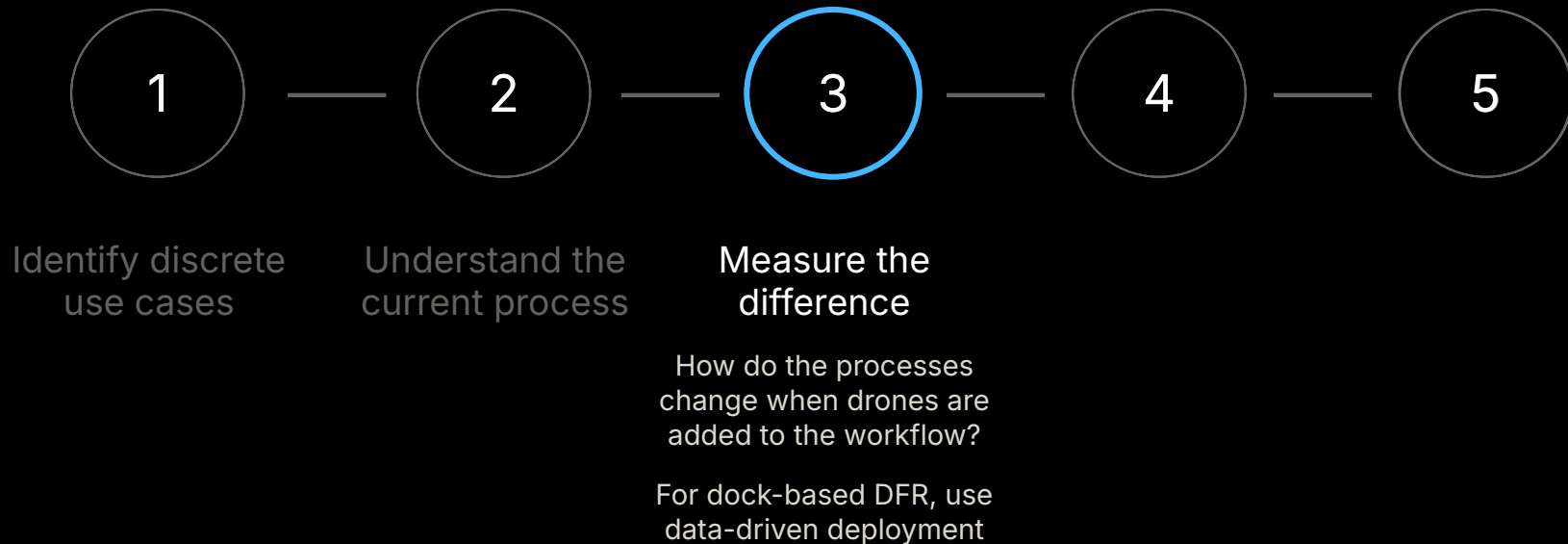


Dock-Based Drone  
as First Responder  
(Autonomous)

# The ROI Framework



# The ROI Framework



# How many, where?



# Skydio's DFR Deployment Simulation takes the guesswork out of Dock deployment based on real agency data

## Calls for Service

- What are the important call priority classifications for drone response?
- Is there a contingency for simultaneous calls?
- What is the average call duration?

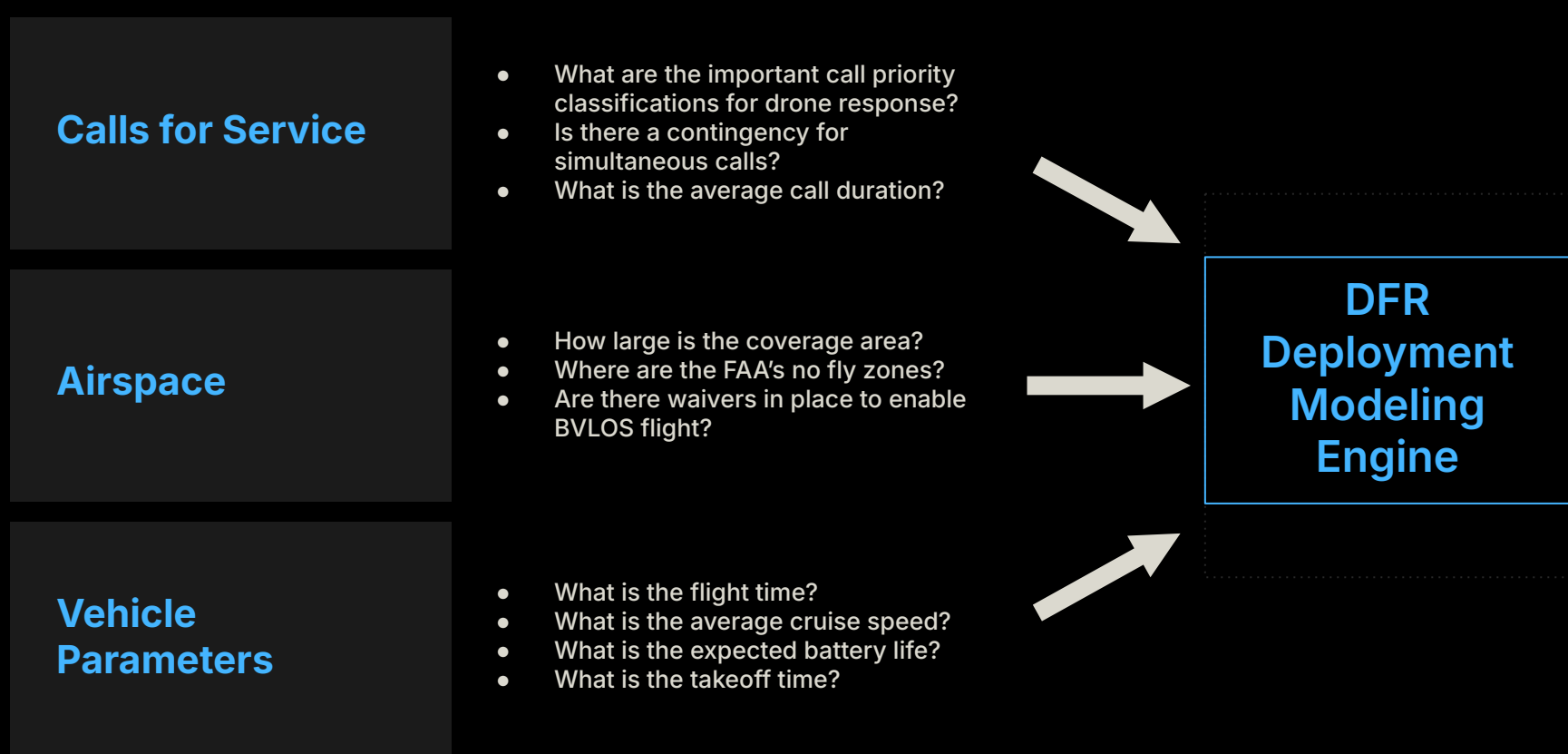
## Airspace

- How large is the coverage area?
- Where are the FAA's no fly zones?
- Are there waivers in place to enable BVLOS flight?

## Vehicle Parameters

- What is the flight time?
- What is the average cruise speed?
- What is the expected battery life?
- What is the takeoff time?

## DFR Deployment Modeling Engine



```
graph LR; A[Calls for Service] --> D[DFR Deployment Modeling Engine]; B[Airspace] --> D; C[Vehicle Parameters] --> D;
```

# All you need are call dates, times, and the location



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

OPEN DATA

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| <div>Tt</div> <div>NOPD_Item</div> <div>nopd_item</div> <div></div> | <div>Tt</div> <div>Priority</div> <div>priority</div> <div></div> | <div>Tt</div> <div>InitialType</div> <div>initialtype</div> <div></div> | <div>Tt</div> <div>InitialTypeText</div> <div>initialtypetext</div> <div></div> | <div>Tt</div> <div>TimeCreate</div> <div>timecreate</div> <div></div> | <div><div></div></div> <div>Location</div> <div>location</div> <div></div> |  |
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New Orleans gets ~300K calls  
for service annually.

All Priorities

Avoid 0' and 50'  
Ceilings

X10 with  
NightSense





# Drive to desired outcomes with different response parameters

Target On-Station Time (minutes)

20

1

60

Target Response Time (seconds)

120

-

+

Hive Locations

☒ Auto

☐ Select Locations

☐ Manual - Prioritize Locations

Number of hives

14

-

+

☐ Auto Dock Count

Manual Dock Count

45

-

+

Select columns to filter on

Priority

1

2

0

Priority

1

2

0

Date range

2024/01/01 – 2024/12/31

Upload a KML, KMZ, GeoJson, or SHP file with deployment zones

Drag and drop file here

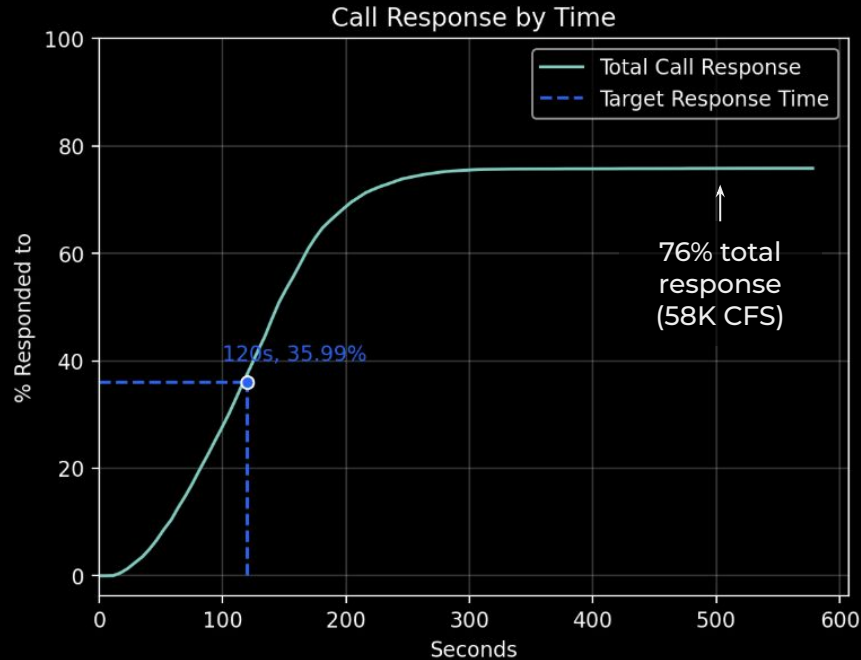
Limit 2GB per file • KML, KMZ, GEOJSON, SHP

Browse files

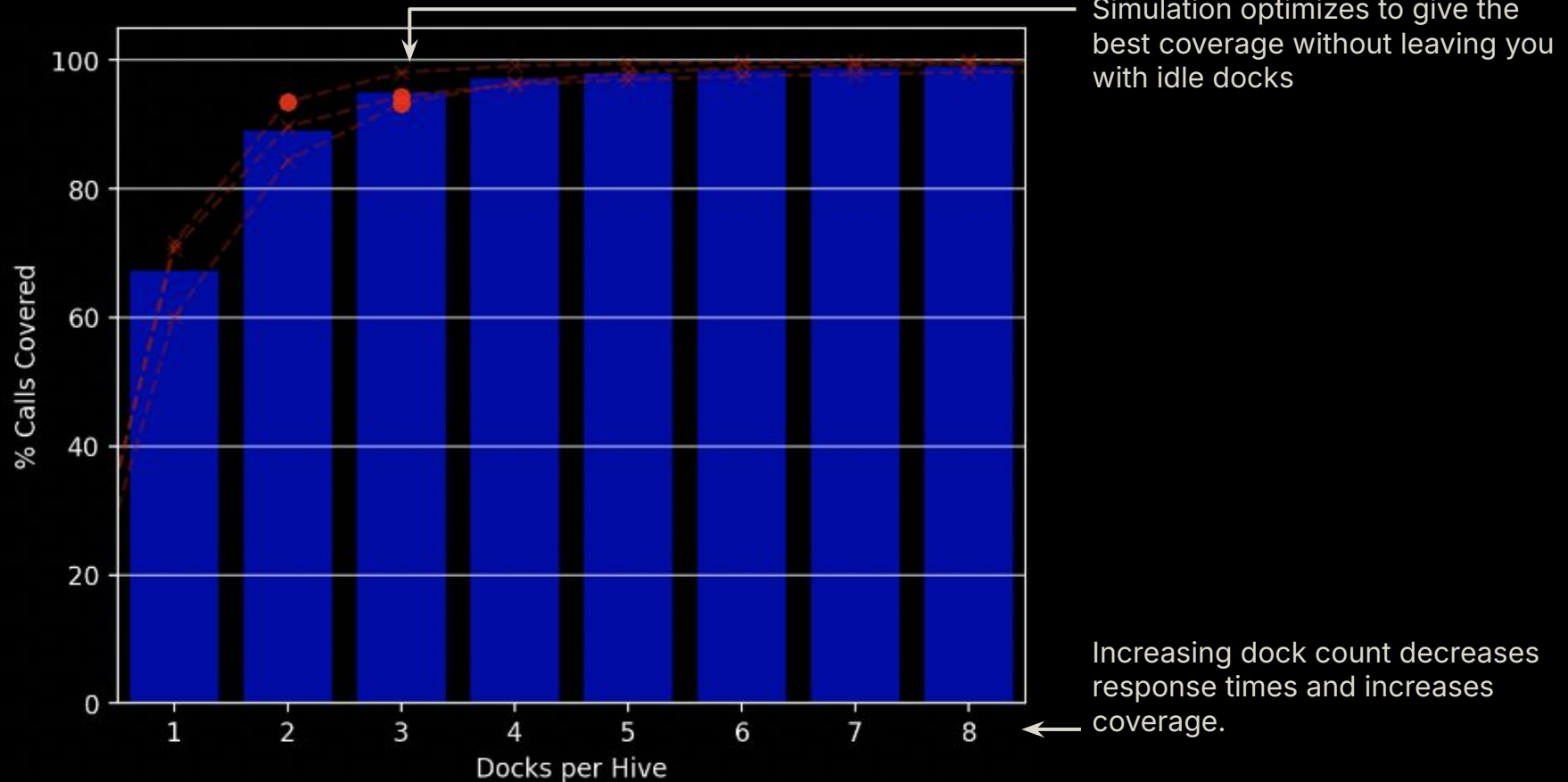
Upload a KML, KMZ, GeoJson, or SHP file with exclusion zones

## Recommended Initial Deployment

22 Docks in 7 Hives could respond to 27K calls under 120 seconds, which is 36% of P0-2 CFS.

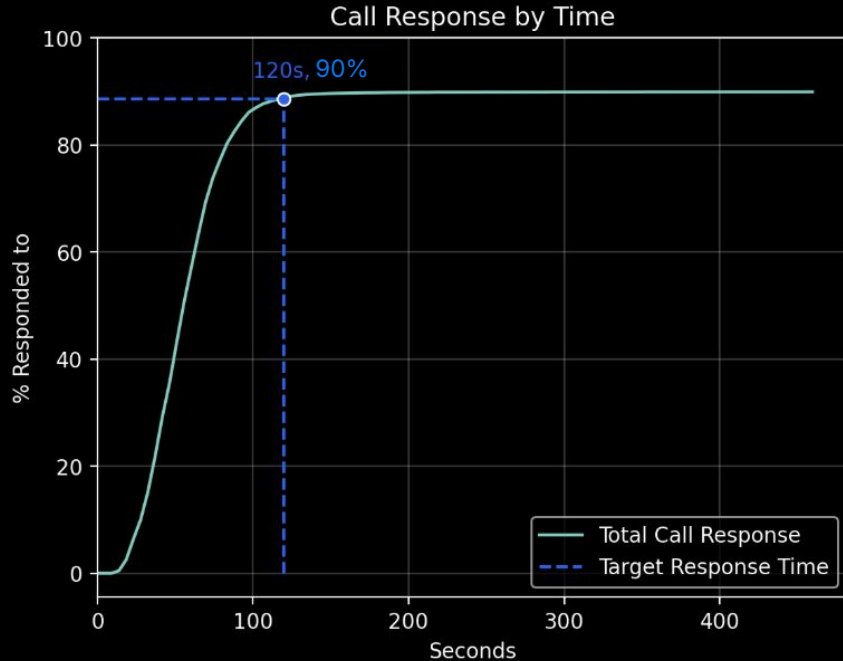


**Deployment is scalable; different levels of investment will yield different results.**



## Full Deployment

115 Docks in 35 Hives could respond to **275K** calls under **120 seconds**, which is 90% of all CFS.



Using public data & industry benchmarks, we can calculate the expected annual program value.

21%

Of calls can be resolved without sending a patrol officer

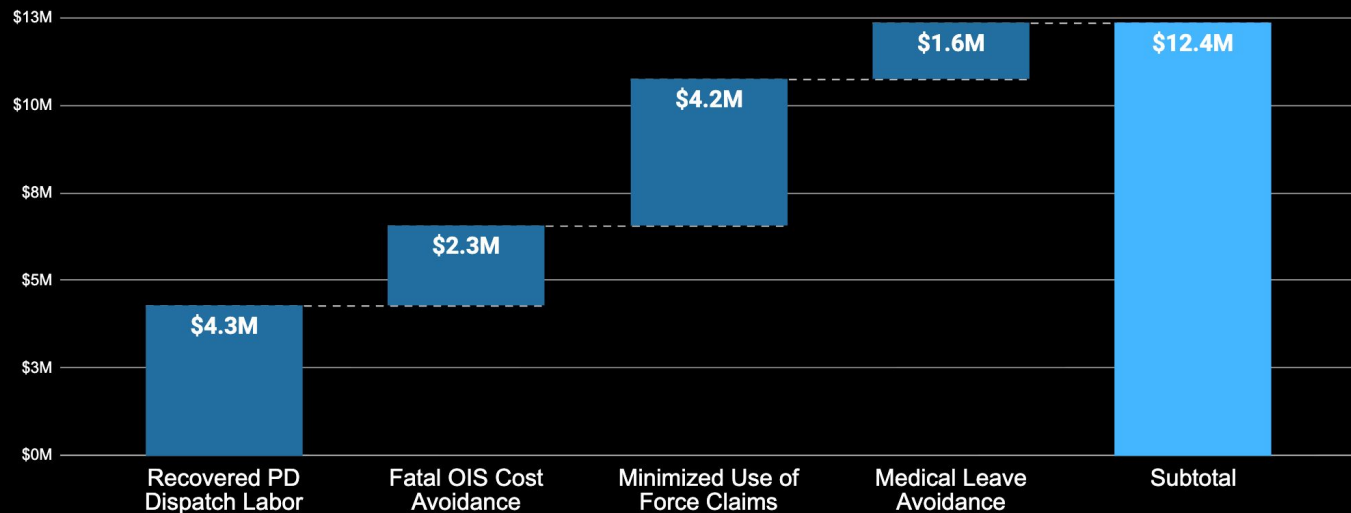
50%

UoF Reduction with real-time overwatch information

2x

Area coverage for SAR

# Full scale DFR deployment could reduce operating costs by \$12.4M annually



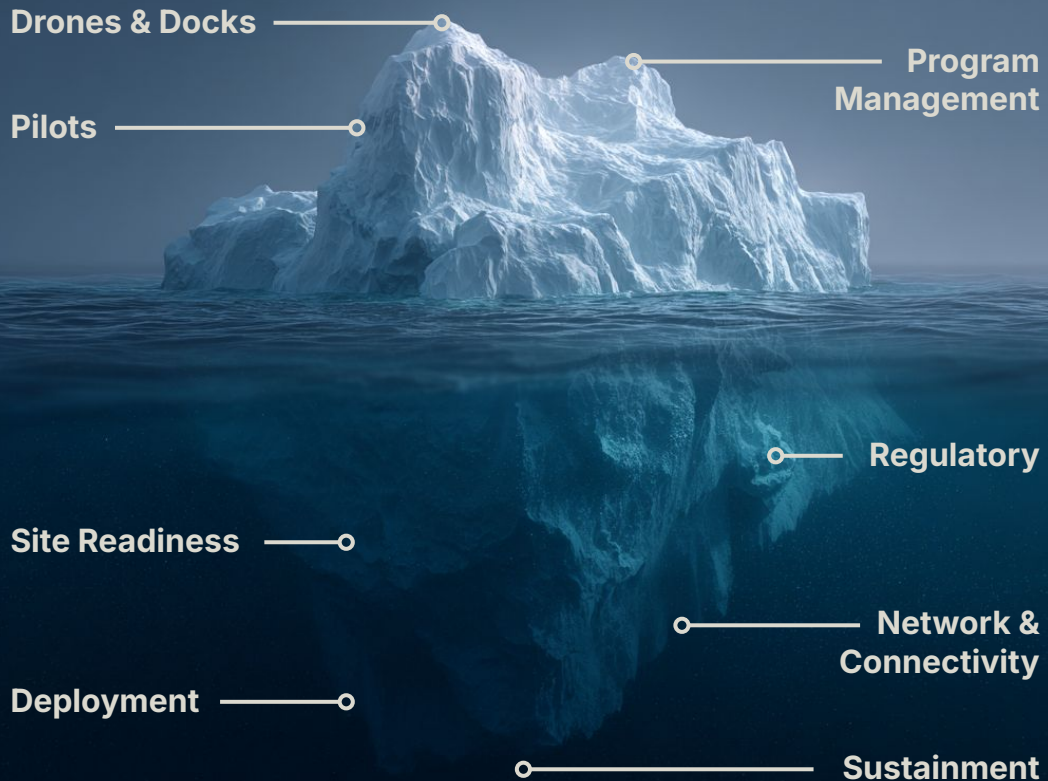
# The ROI Framework





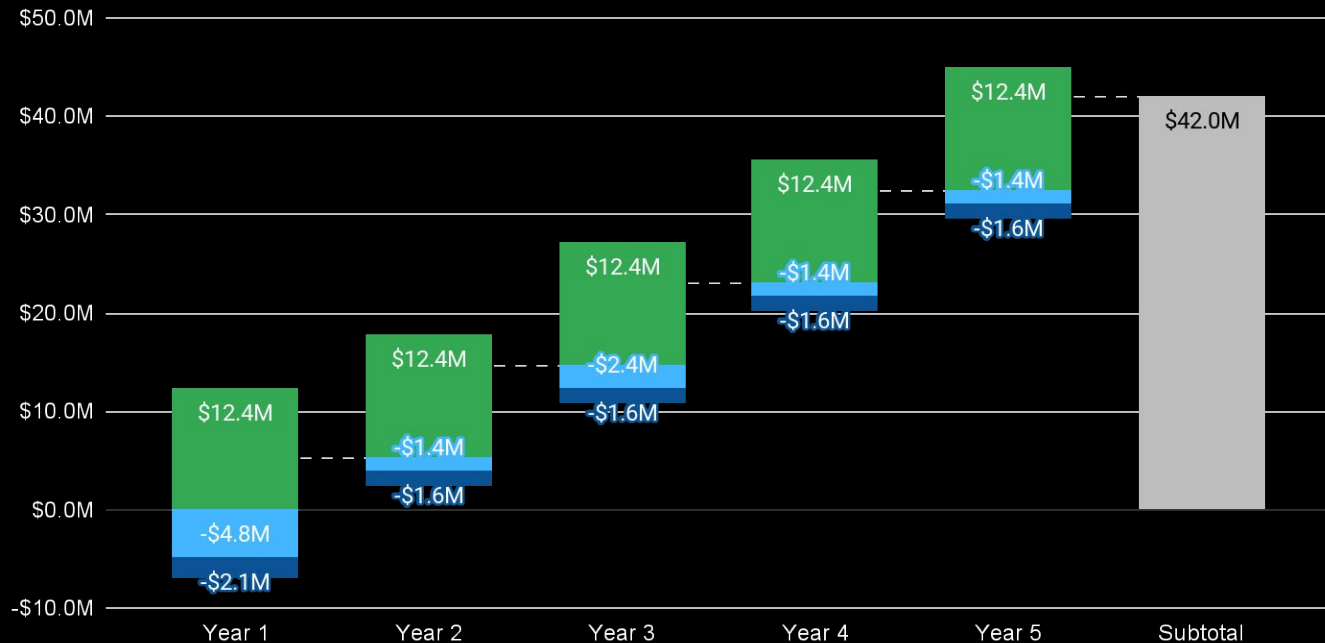
# Buying drones is just the tip of the iceberg

Understanding ongoing operating costs upfront is critical for program success

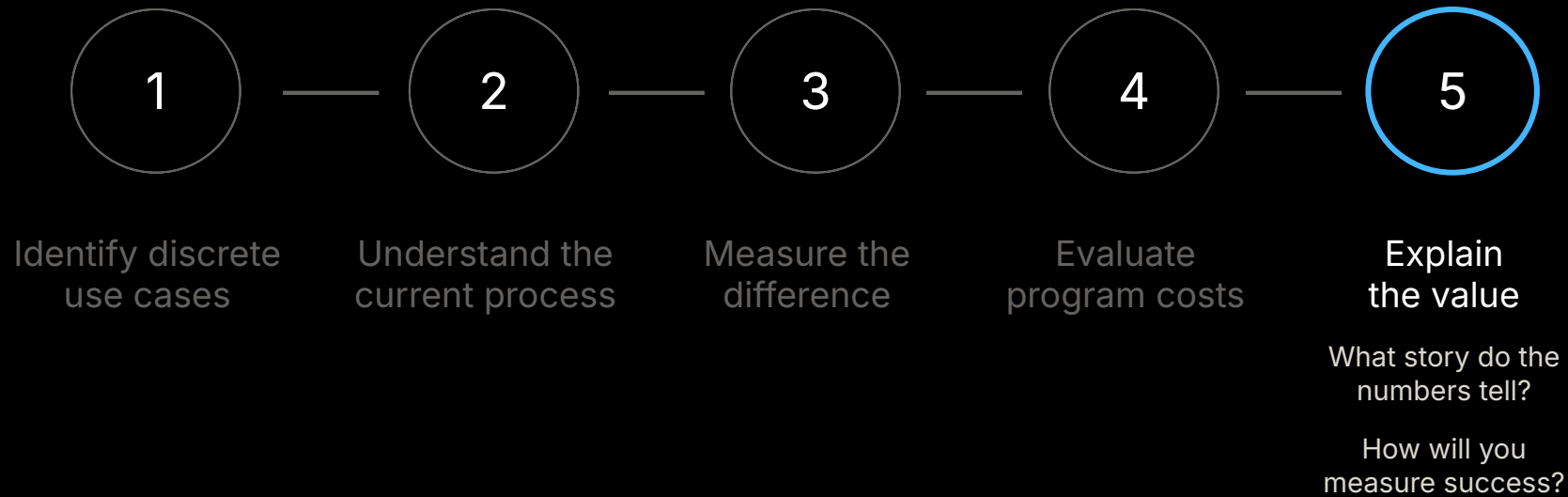




# Calculating the programmatic ROI allows for strategic planning



# The ROI Framework



# Explain the numbers as they relate to program goals



## Save lives & increase safety

# officer injuries avoided



## Improve response times

Average minutes to arrival



## Save money

Redistributed officer hours,  
UoF claims avoided



## Reduce use of force incidents

OIS over time



## Improve community relationships

Arrests made, cases closed



## Address mental health and wellness

Reduced officer churn

# Track KPI's for ongoing program calibration



## SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPT

---

42% reduction in auto theft  
500+ arrests  
30% drop in overall crime



## LAKEWOOD POLICE DEPT

---

590 flights in 11 weeks  
47% of CFS received DFR  
38% of CFS cleared without patrol



## REDMOND POLICE DEPT

---

88 sec average response time  
48% faster than officers on P1  
25% of CFS cleared without patrol



## OKLAHOMA CITY POLICE DEPT

---

40% flights for fire-related calls