

864 (Watton) Squadron Grant Report

864 (Watton) Squadron received a generous grant of £5000.00 from the Town Council on 20 October 2022. Our aim for the use of this grant was to help with providing immersive, engaging and intuitive training for our Air Cadets.

A plan has been put together to develop a portable flight simulator for use by the cadets at the Squadron and at events to promote the Air Cadets and provide a practical training aide to aviation lessons. The incorporation of a flight simulator will allow us to help consolidate learning for our cadets and improve the range of activities and qualifications that we can offer. Alongside a powered flight in a Grob Tutor, cadets can also use simulated flights to prove their airmanship knowledge and progress through our progressive training syllabus. Our first purchase towards creating our flight simulator was a gaming laptop, costing £699.99, which will allow us to use immersive technology such as a virtual reality headset to help cadets learn how to pilot aircraft. We currently have plans to purchase controls for our flight simulator, including a joystick, throttle and rudder pedals as well as a virtual reality headset.

As a way to assist cadets with online training, we also made a purchase of 10 Chromebooks, totalling £1100.00. These devices function as both a tablet and laptop, allowing for cadets to undertake online exams, conduct research, create presentations and undertake self-taught studying. These Chromebooks have increased the Squadron's digital capability and have helped to provide more online opportunities for individuals who may not have access to a computer at home. A lot of our training is now stored and accessed online, so having multiple devices that cadets can use simultaneously has really expanded our ability to provide more training opportunities on each parade night.

We would like to pass on our thanks to the Town Council for their generous and continued support of 864 Squadron.

Alex Stapleton
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Officer Commanding
864 (Watton) Squadron
Air Training Corps