

N.C. DOT To Sell State Helicopter Sale, Save \$250,000 Per Year

By Administrator

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RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - The Department of Transportation's Sikorsky S-76 helicopter will be sold on e-Bay. Officials say getting rid of the helicopter will save taxpayers \$250,000 per year. The proceeds will be put into the state's General Fund.

The order to sell the helicopter came from Gov. Pat McCrory, according to the DOT. The agency says the goal is to operate more efficiently by consolidating the department's air fleet. DOT is negotiating a contract to have access to a helicopter, if needed.

The decision to sell the Sikorsky was due to a relatively low number of hours logged on a yearly basis and high cost of maintenance and operation. The helicopter cost \$265,000 to operate and maintain in fiscal year 2013.

The helicopter was used by NCDOT and other state agencies to survey disaster recovery efforts and facilitate economic development activities. NCDOT also has two twin turbo-prop passenger aircraft and a Cessna Citation Bravo Jet in its fleet.