

Drone Pilot - Field Equipment List

Option A (Budget / Least-Expensive Route): Based on DJI Mavic 3

Item	Qty	Est. Unit Price*	Specs / Notes	Source
Drone body (DJI Mavic 3)	1	~\$2,049 USD DJI Store+1	4/3" CMOS Hasselblad, up to ~46 min flight time DJI Official+1	DJI Store / Authorized Reseller
Flight batteries (Intelligent Flight Battery)	3	~\$199 each	Spare batteries to cover full-day operations	Retail drone accessory vendors
Remote controller (DJI RC or RC Pro)	1	~\$699+	Choose higher spec if you want telemetry, screen etc.	DJI / Reseller
Spare props (sets)	4 sets	~\$15-40/set	Always carry 2-4 spare sets in field	Drone accessory shops
SD cards (128 GB SanDisk Extreme PRO)	4	~\$25-40 each	High-speed cards for image capture	Amazon / B&H
External SSD (1 TB Samsung T7)	1	~\$80-120	Field backup of imagery	Amazon / electronics vendor
Hard case (e.g., Pelican 1520)	1	~\$202	Rugged hard case for transport + storage	B&H / Pelican site
Portable power station (e.g., Goal Zero Yeti 500)	1	~\$499-699	Powers batteries / charger / monitor in field	Goal Zero / outdoor equipment vendor
Multi-bay battery charger / hub	1	~\$150-350	For charging multiple drone batteries in field	Drone accessory vendor
Portable monitor (15.6" USB-C)	1	~\$150-300	For live viewing, mission planning on-site	Electronics reseller
Landing pad (1.5 m)	1	~\$25-50	Visibility and safety for take-offs/landings	Drone accessory shops
Backpack or auxiliary bag	1	~\$100-200	For mobility if pilot is walking site to site	Drone gear retailers
Safety & PPE kit (vest, hard hat, cones)	As needed	~\$50-200	Jobsite safety as required by utility company	Industrial safety suppliers
Misc cables/adapters/power bricks	Assorted	~\$50-150	USB-C, car adapter, AC adapter etc.	Electronics retailer
Total		\$5,939		

*Estimates are typical US market approximate pricing; actual may vary.

Field Notes for Option A:

- Covers the core drone inspection workflow at a more moderate cost.
- For new pilots and standard utility pole inspection workflows this is a strong fit.
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- May lack some of the enterprise-grade autonomy or sensor flexibility of higher tier drones.
- Ensure you factor in spares, consumables, battery lifecycle, and travel case volumes.

Option B (Premium / More Expensive Route): Based on Skydio X10

Item	Qty	Est. Unit Price*	Specs / Notes	Source
Drone body (Skydio X10)	1	~\$15,000+ (example kits ~\$17,791) CDW+1	Enterprise drone: 4K, thermal/zoom sensor options, AI/autonomy, rugged build Skydio+1	Skydio authorized reseller Skydio
Flight batteries (enterprise grade)	2-3	~\$370	High capacity, supports longer missions	Via Skydio or reseller
Remote controller / enterprise controller	1	Included or extra via kit	Advanced controller with 5G, autonomy interface Skydio	Reseller
Sensor payload extras (thermal, zoom, mapping)	As required	Included or modular upgrade	E.g., FLIR Boson+ thermal for inspection tasks Adorama	Reseller
SD cards / high-capacity media	4	~\$25-40 each	High-throughput for 4K/thermal capture	Electronics retailer
External SSD (1 TB Samsung T7)	1	~\$80-120	Field backup storage	Electronics retailer
Hard case / rugged transport kit	1	~\$300-500+	Enterprise rugged pack & case	Drone enterprise gear vendor
Portable power station (Goal Zero Yeti 500 or higher)	1	~\$499-699 (or larger if heavy sensor load)	Supports field charging for enterprise kit	Goal Zero / outdoor gear
Multi-bay charger / charging hub	1	~\$300-500+	Designed for enterprise batteries	Drone enterprise accessory vendor
Portable monitor / rugged tablet	1	~\$300-1000	For field planning, autonomous mission config	Rugged electronics vendor
Landing pad, safety gear, backpack etc.	As above	~\$50-200+	Field support gear	Industrial supplier
Optional RTK/PPK ground station	1	~\$1,500+	For high-accuracy geotagging if needed	Mapping/drone supplier
Total		~\$23,580		

*Estimated — Skydio enterprise kits vary significantly based on configuration, sensors, licenses, regional support.

Field Notes for Option B:

- Premium investment aimed at high-end inspection workflows, large deployments, or clients who require advanced autonomy, thermal/zoom sensors, rugged/wet-weather performance.
- Increased upfront cost but may yield higher productivity, fewer repeat flights, more data capture in complex environments.
- Budget accordingly for training, software licenses, maintenance, and parts.

Recommendations & Next Steps

- If your inspection workflows are standard (pole/top hardware capture, visual inspection) and budget is moderate: go with **Option A (DJI Mavic 3)**.
- If you anticipate frequent complex inspections (tight spaces, thermal imaging, line-side CAD mapping, autonomy, large fleet) or wish to differentiate your service: invest in **Option B (Skydio X10)**.
- Regardless of option: ensure you budget for **spares**, consumables (props, batteries), charging infrastructure, transport cases, field data backup, and mission safety gear.
- Confirm reseller pricing in your region (Colorado Springs / U.S.) and any enterprise discounts for volume.
- Consider including everyday field consumables: cleaning kit, ND filters, extra mounts, data cables, USB-C car adapter, rugged tablet or tablet mount.