



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO/Office of
Emergency Services
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: March 15, 2011
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Michael D. Harris, Emergency Operations Chief
Director
Contact Info: Joe Guzzardi, Emergency Manager, 560-1081
SUBJECT: Request for Waiver of Competition Bid Process in Purchase of Helicopter Video Downlink System

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Purchasing Division

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Utilize federal funding from the Department of Homeland Security, authorize the County Purchasing Manager, without requiring a formal bid process, to procure a complete Helicopter Video Downlink System for the Santa Barbara County Operational Area from Helinet Aviation Services (not a local vendor), for a total amount not to exceed \$540,000.
2. Approve the attached budget revision in the amount of \$258,000 for the current fiscal year costs of purchasing the helicopter video downlink system.

Summary Text:

The Office of Emergency Services (OES) has secured approval to purchase a Helicopter Video Downlink System that will include equipment components for the Sheriff's Aviation Unit helicopter, the Santa Ynez Peak radio tower, the Office of Emergency Services' Emergency Operation Center and field mobile command vehicle. The completed system will enable the Sheriff's Aviation Unit to record and transmit video feeds from the Sheriff's helicopter to the County's Emergency Operations Center, a mobile command receiver platform, and into the County's computer server infrastructure. The transmitted video feed will be available for viewing in appropriate and secured command and management locations, and shared via an encrypted internet product with partner emergency response agencies throughout the Operational Area.

Helinet Aviation Services has provided these services to other law enforcement agencies from within the region (partial list below), it improves mutual aid resources because of the common operating platform.

Background:

The Helinet Helicopter Video Downlink System will provide a complete “turn key” system with the ability to gather field intelligence and information from an aviation platform, and transmit a secure, encrypted video feed to mobile field and/or fixed command and management locations throughout the Operational Area.

Helinet Aviation Services is a uniquely qualified vendor and has demonstrated a specialized skill set in providing similar services for both governmental agencies and private industry throughout the southern California region. Helinet possesses direct recent experience in designing, ordering material, installing equipment, delivering, testing, and providing logistical support for identical aviation-based downlink systems for the following emergency response agencies located within the Mutual Aid Region that includes Santa Barbara County:

- Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department
- City of Los Angeles Police Department
- Orange County Sheriff’s Department
- City of Ontario, Police Department
- Southern California Regional Aviation Downlink Project (RADP) – Ontario Police Department, San Bernardino Police Department, San Bernardino Sheriff’s Department, Riverside Police Department, and the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department
- United States Federal Bureau of Investigation Hostage Rescue Team
- United States Drug Enforcement Agency

A multidisciplinary project team formed by OES researched available technology, equipment, and potential vendors. The project team determined that Helinet Aviation is the only vendor with the expertise necessary to provide this type of ‘turn key’ video downlink system. Similar complete video downlink systems operated by Region I and Region IA Mutual Aid agencies have been provided by Helinet Aviation. Contracting with Helinet Aviation will ensure an equipment, training and operational consistency that will benefit the emergency response and management agencies that utilize the completed system. Utilizing the same Helinet system will also minimize potential training, operating, and maintenance costs.

Performance Measure:

The Helicopter Video Downlink System will be used in the Operational Area to facilitate the collection of incident information and the dissemination of emergency management information pertinent to ongoing response activities across all jurisdictional, organizational, and agency boundaries.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes (FY2009 Homeland Security Grant Program, FY2009 Buffer Zone Protection Program Grant).

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
2009 BZPP (Federal)	193,825.00	193,825.00
2009 HSGP (Federal)	64,175.00	346,175.00
Total	258,000.00	540,000.00

Narrative:

The costs associated with this purchase are included in OES' FY2009 Homeland Security Grant Program, and FY2009 Buffer Zone Protection Program Grant approved projects for use by the Santa Barbara Operational Area and all of its political sub-divisions.

A Budget Revision for this purchase is attached to this Board Letter. It is anticipated that costs of \$258,000 will occur during the current fiscal year, and the remaining balance of \$282,000 will occur during FY2011-12.

The Sheriff's Department has committed to OES and Homeland Security its intention to maintain this airship as part of its response capabilities. It is not anticipated by the Sheriff's Department that the airship being used in this project with OES will be eliminated as part of the Sheriff's Department's strategic budget decisions.

The purchase comes with a one year parts and labor warranty. The experience of other agencies is that ongoing system costs are minimal.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions: **FTEs:**
N/A N/A

No staffing impacts result from this project.

Special Instructions: N/A

Attachments: Budget Revision

Authored by:

Joe Guzzardi, Office of Emergency Services

Cc: Homeland Security Approval Authority