

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 10/7/02
Department Name: Fire
Department No.: 031
Agenda Date: 10/22/02
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: John M. Scherrei
Fire Chief

STAFF CONTACT: Jim Scott, I.T. Manager
x5569

SUBJECT: Request for Waiver of Competition in Purchase of Computer Systems

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors authorizes the Purchasing Agent to procure approximately 35 desktop computer systems without being required to conduct a formal bid process.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation primarily aligns with Goal No. 2. Ensure the Public Health and Safety and Provide Essential Infrastructure.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Pursuant to County Code Section 2-39, we are requesting your Board to waive the requirement for a competitive bid in the purchase of Dell desktop computers for our fire stations, battalion quarters and outlying offices.

We are mandated federally to upgrade our fire incident reporting software to national standards by January 1, 2003. In part due to that upgrade, we re replacing our Macintosh computer systems with industry standard desktop PCs. We currently have 29 Mac units remaining.

Currently, we can purchase systems from Dell that include twice as much memory (RAM) and twice the hard drive capacity as the equivalent Compaq models, plus the network (Ethernet) card has "gigabit" capabilities already, meaning we would not have to replace internal equipment in the future. We can obtain more powerful machines, expect fewer repairs, and save the fire department \$18,299 over the 29 unit purchase. Much of this savings is due to the fact that Dell in including on-site repairs in the purchase price

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for 3 years. Through the current arrangements, to obtain the same level of service we must put our equipment on monthly maintenance using a third party vendor, LeBards MicroAge.

We have researched other PC manufacturers such as Sony, Toshiba and Gateway, as well as Compaq, and it is clear that there are no equal machines with similar value, quality, reliability, cost savings and technical support. County's I.T. Services concurs with our decision.

Mandates and Service Levels:

No change in service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This action will save our department \$551 for the first year as all computer manufacturers warrant their systems for at least one year, then \$17,748 over the next two years due to Dell including Gold Support in the purchase price. We can choose to extend the support at that time for the same price, or begin replacing units with up-to-date versions, dependent upon the software requirements that we will face in three years.

Special Instructions:

Please direct the Clerk of the Board to send certified copies of the Minute order to:
John McMillin, Purchasing Agent
Rose Pueschel, Fire Department

Concurrence:

County Counsel, County Administrator, Auditor-Controller, Purchasing Agent