



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:** Fire  
**Department No.:** 031  
**For Agenda Of:** September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Mark A. Hartwig, Fire Chief, 805-681-5507  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Shawna Jorgensen, Chief Financial Officer, 805-681-5506  
Diane Sauer, Fiscal Manager, 805-681-5505

**SUBJECT:** Fire Apparatus Procurement

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Purchasing

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) For the purchase of four (4) Type I fire engines, pursuant to County Code § 2-39 waive competitive bidding by the County of Santa Barbara and instead authorize the County Purchasing Agent to purchase this equipment as a sole source procurement without being required to conduct a formal bid process; and
- b) Determine pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15378(b)(4) that the above fiscal activity is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

**Summary Text:**

Pursuant to County Code Section 2-39, the Fire Department is requesting that the Board of Supervisors authorize the County's Purchasing Agent to purchase four (4) Type I fire engines (also referred to as fire pumpers or structure engines) at approximately \$670,000 per engine as a sole source procurement from Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corporation (KME).

In alignment with the County's Renew '22 initiative, the recommended action will allow the Fire Department to obtain apparatus that are standardized with the current fleet, resulting in efficiencies with parts, maintenance and operation of the apparatus. The functional controls on the apparatus can be

similarly located and provide identical function, thus improving interoperability for firefighters working on any of these units. This improves firefighter safety and efficiency during operation of these vehicles.

**Background:**

Due to operational safety and Renew '22 efficiency considerations, the Fire Department has been striving to standardize the fleet of vehicles, especially the emergency response vehicles. KME has provided the Type I engines for the department for several years now. The vendor and their apparatus have proven to be reliable. Staff continually evaluate the various vendors and apparatus on the market and have found that KME continues to meet the needs of the Fire Department's emergency response mission.

On July 9, 2019, the Board approved the sole source procurement for two (2) Type I fire engines. Since that time, the Fire Department continued to work with the vendor to secure more favorable pricing and the unit cost has decreased from approximately \$705,000 to approximately \$670,000. During this same period, the replacement cycle and condition of the entire Type I engine fleet was re-evaluated and it was determined that an additional four (4) Type I engines should be replaced. The long lead time associated with the procurement also factored into this decision. The delivery estimate is currently 360 to 390 days from the date of the pre-construction conference.

These engine replacements will result in the oldest Type I engines in the fleet being those that were placed in service in 2007. As part of the Type I engine fleet evaluation, the Department will retain one additional engine as an Operating Cost Auxiliary engine, increasing the fleet from 16 front line and 7 auxiliary to 16 front line and 8 auxiliary engines. This will allow the department to send a strike team of five engines to provide mutual aid while retaining a Type I engine at each fire station for responses in County and providing the capacity for up to three engines to be in the garage for servicing at any given time.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Will be budgeted in FY 2020-21

Narrative: The cost associated with the purchase of the four Type I fire engines is projected to occur in fiscal year 2020-21. The four Type I fire engines are part of the County's Vehicle Operations Internal Service Fund and as such, Fire Department funds have been accumulated over a number of years to cover the projected cost of the replacement vehicles. The actual cost of the engines is estimated to exceed the funds that have been collected for the replacement of these specific vehicles by \$475,000 and this projected shortfall in the amount of funds accumulated over the years for the four engines will be incorporated into the FY 2020-21 budget through an operating transfer from the Fire Department to the Vehicle Operations Fund.

**Staffing Impacts:**

N/A

**Special Instructions:**

Clerk of the Board, please send copy of minute order to:

- 1) Diane Sauer, Fiscal Manager, Fire Department

- 2) Sylvester Donelson, Chief Procurement Officer, General Services

**Authored by:**

Shawna Jorgensen, Chief Financial Officer

Diane Sauer, Fiscal Manager

**cc:**