



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: 12-16-2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: 5 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Fire Chief Tom Franklin X5507
Director(s)
Contact Info: Fire Deputy Chief Chris Hahn X5501

SUBJECT: Request for Waiver of Competition in Purchase of Specialized Fire Vehicles

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Purchasing

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board:

- 1) Approve the sole source vendor request for the Fire Department's purchase of one (1) Type III engine (brush truck) in an amount not to exceed \$275,000 from West-Mark, not a local vendor.
- 2) Approve the sole source vendor request for the Fire Department's purchase of one (1) air/lighting vehicle in an amount not to exceed \$365,000 and two (2) water tenders in an amount not to exceed \$450,000 from Pierce Manufacturing Inc., not a local vendor.

Summary Text:

Pursuant to County Code Section 2-39, the Fire Department is requesting the Board waive the requirement for a competitive bid process for the purchase of the specialized emergency response vehicles noted above.

New standards effective January 1, 2009 will force the addition of unnecessary and costly changes to the vehicles. The Fire Department planned to purchase these vehicles in fiscal year 08/09 and recently received final approval from the CEO's office to move forward with these purchases.

Due to the furlough shutdown, it is necessary to place the order for these vehicles prior to the furlough period (which begins on December 22, 2008) in order to avoid the costly changes that will be required on these vehicles after January 1, 2009.

Background: One of the “lessons learned” from the Zaca Fire was that staffing was available to fight the fire (by virtue of calling off-duty firefighters back to work) but the Fire Department did not have an engine and equipment to send them to the fire line. This occurred again most recently during the Gap and Tea fires this past fire season. The addition of a Type III engine (brush truck) will improve operations by allowing the Department to send 2 strike teams of engines (5 engines per strike team) to fight fires while maintaining adequate resources at the fire stations. West-Mark provided the last two purchases of Type III engines which have proven to be very reliable and of superior quality and the standardization of fire equipment creates operational efficiencies.

The air/lighting unit provides a mobile source of air to refill firefighter air bottles during a protracted or large scale emergency as well as providing a mobile source of lighting to emergencies that occur during night hours or in areas lacking sufficient lighting. It is also used in all hazardous materials responses. The current unit is a 1988 vehicle that will be over 20 years old by the time the replacement unit is placed into service and does not meet current NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards. The new unit will allow for faster filling of breathing air, will provide for additional storage and will provide increased capabilities for technical rescues and hazardous materials incidents. In addition, the cab chassis will be from the same vendor that provides the cab chassis for the Type III engines, allowing greater familiarity with operational procedures via this standardization.

The water tenders are used to provide water at emergency responses when a municipal water system does not exist or is inadequate to support the incident. The Fire Department would like to replace one (1) 3,000 gallon water tender with two (2) smaller 1,500 gallon tenders that are more suited to performing off-road and in tight spaces on wildland fires. Water tenders are a valuable resource during wildland fires and the Department currently has tenders strategically placed in Gaviota, Santa Ynez and Orcutt but there is a deficiency in the Cuyama Valley. Replacing one current water tender with 2 smaller water tenders would alleviate this operational deficiency. The water tender specifications are based on Forest Service water tender specs which provide for a significantly reduced wheel base, turning radius and maximized storage space. Pierce Manufacturing is the current vendor providing the Forest Service water tenders.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:	\$ 1,090,000.00		
Total	\$ 1,090,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

The purchase of the Type III engine is included in the Fire Department's adopted FY 08/09 budget. There are sufficient funds in the Vehicle Operations Fund to replace the air/lighting unit and at the time the FY 08/09 budget was generated, there were sufficient monies built up in the Vehicle Operations Fund to purchase both water tenders. At this time, it is anticipated that the Fire Department will need to transfer approximately \$70,000 additional funds to the Vehicle Operations Fund to complete the purchase of the second water tender. A budget revision for this transfer is forthcoming.

Special Instructions:

Please send a certified copy of the minute order to Purchasing Dept., Attn, John McMillin, Vehicle Operations, Attn. Mitch Guenthart, and Rose Pueschel, Fire Dept.

Authored by:

Diane Sauer, Fiscal Manager