



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: August 30, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Mark A. Hartwig, Fire Chief / Fire Warden (805) 681-5500
Director(s)
Contact Info: Anthony Stornetta, Deputy Chief of Operations (805) 681-4202

SUBJECT: Request for Waiver of Competition in the Purchase of Three Pickup Trucks

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Purchasing

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Waive competitive bidding by the County of Santa Barbara pursuant to County Code § 2-39 and authorize the County Purchasing Manager to procure three pickup trucks “off the lot” at a cost not to exceed \$255,000.00; 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 waive the requirement for a competitive bid for the purchase of three pickup trucks needed immediately for the fire crew and the fuels crew programs. Due to supply chain restraints, we are unable to purchase these pickups in a timely manner through the fleet bid process. The vendor that was awarded the fleet bid for these types of pickups is unable to identify delivery dates for the vehicles. The vendor notified General Services that the soonest these types of pickups could be delivered would be the fall of 2023 and there would be a price increase at a currently unknown amount.

There are currently eight (8) Fire Department pick-ups in total that are needed for purchase and/or replacement. The Fire Department can wait for five (5) of the pickup trucks to continue to proceed

through the prolonged bid process. However, the remaining three (3) pickups requested are time sensitive purchases that impact the ability to efficiently and effectively complete fuels reduction work and to respond to emergency incidents. For these reasons, the Fire Department would like to locate three pickup trucks with the appropriate specifications that are available for purchase immediately “off the lot” from one or more retail dealerships and are asking that the Board authorize the Purchasing Manager to complete the purchase(s) once the appropriate vehicles are located.

Inquiries have been made to various automotive agencies in order to establish an approximate cost estimate for the purchase of these three pickups. Due to the short supply and high demand for the pickups, we are unable to bring forth specific quotes as the vehicles are sold so quickly, prices fluctuate constantly and dealerships are reluctant to hold vehicles for an extended period of time. However, based upon the research that has been conducted to date, it is believed that all three pickups should be available for purchase at an amount not to exceed \$255,000.00.

Background:

In the spring of 2022, County Fire was notified that funding through the State Fire Protection Services Contract would include dollars to support fire crew services. Since that time, the Fire Department has added an additional fire hand crew to bolster fuels reduction and emergency response capabilities. We have moved from two fire hand crews to now three. This additional crew requires two pickups to transport crew members and equipment to and from emergencies and to and from fuels reduction work sites. Due to the prolonged build-up times of crew buggies (two years out), we cannot effectively transport our personnel and equipment until these pickups are purchased.

Additionally, in the spring of 2022, County Fire received notification from Cal Fire that the Tepusquet Vegetation Management Grant had been awarded to the Fire Department. This grant was originally brought before your Board on December 14, 2021. This is a \$6 million multi-year grant that necessitates the purchase of one additional pickup to support the fuels crew program. Although the vehicle purchase is not covered by the grant, it is necessary to support the operation of the fuels crew work activities. The grant work started in the spring and the lack of a dedicated pickup is hampering the ability of the Fire Prevention Division to effectively complete grant activities.

Timeframes for delivery through the competitive bid process for these vehicles are in some cases in excess of one calendar year. This delay will create significant response challenges and potential for small incidents to become a major impact to the residents of Santa Barbara County. Vehicle Request Forms were processed from Fire through General Services and the County Executive Office and all three vehicles were approved for immediate and/or “off the lot” purchases due to the extreme need for these vehicles. The Fire Department is requesting authority to make these purchases of vehicles immediately to ensure our resources can respond appropriately to emergencies and to effectively complete fuel reduction activities.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: Budgeted: Yes, partially.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Current FY Cost:	Annualized On-going Cost:	Total One-Time Project Cost
General Fund			
State	\$ 195,000.00		\$ 195,000.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:	\$ 60,000.00		\$ 60,000.00
Total	\$ 255,000.00	\$ -	\$ 255,000.00

Narrative:

There are no facilities impacts.

Funding for the two fire crew vehicles has been secured through the Cal Fire Fire Protection Services Contract while the funding for the fuels crew pickup will come from the Fire Department/District.

The FY 2022-23 budget includes \$150,000 for the two fire crew vehicles and the Fire Department will search for other savings internally before processing a budget revision to increase appropriations. The fuels crew vehicle is not specifically included in the FY 2022-23 budget and may require a budget revision in the future if other FY 2022-23 savings do not materialize to offset this cost during the fiscal year.

Special Instructions:

Please forward a certified, stamped Minute Order approving these actions to:

- Phung Loman, County Purchasing Agent, General Services; and
- Diane Sauer, Fiscal Manager, County of Santa Barbara Fire Department

Authored by:

Anthony Stornetta, Deputy Chief of Operations

cc:

Diane Sauer, Fiscal Manager