



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 15, 2015  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Eric L. Peterson, Fire Chief 805-681-5507  
Director(s)  
Contact Info:

**SUBJECT:** Fire Apparatus Procurement

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Purchasing

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) For the purchase of two (2) Ladder trucks, five (5) Type I fire engines and one (1) Ambulance, 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 based on competitive bids completed by other California agencies.
- 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 make these purchases by using competitive bids conducted by Orange County for the purchase of two (2) ladder trucks at approximately \$1,225,000 each and five (5) Type I fire engines at approximately \$530,000 each from Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corporation, and by the City of Palo Alto for the purchase of one (1) ambulance at approximately \$163,000 from Leader Industries.

The 102 foot aerial ladder truck is capable of gaining access to fires and victims needing rescue above the normal ladders carried on fire engines. The aerial ladder truck also carries tools and equipment

needed for rescue, forcible entry, self-contained breathing apparatus, 200 gallons of water and a limited compliment of fire hose. The Type I fire engines are used on structure/vehicle fires and other emergency incidents. The fire engines carry tools and equipment needed for rescue, forcible entry, self-contained breathing apparatus, 500 gallons of water and larger compliments of fire hose. The ambulance is a modular box-type unit capable of transporting 2-3 patients to the hospital. The ambulance transports a fire paramedic and a firefighter/emergency medical technician (EMT) to the scene of an emergency to provide basic and if needed, advanced life support care. This unit also carries a larger compliment of emergency medical supplies for a multi-casualty incident.

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 efficiency considerations, the Fire Department has, for several years now, been striving to standardize the fleet of vehicles, especially the emergency response vehicles. This has historically been accomplished through sole source procurements or when available, by “piggybacking” on competitive bids conducted by other governmental agencies.

The utilization of “piggyback” purchases also creates efficiencies in the purchasing process by eliminating redundant bidding processes and timelines for apparatus that have already gone through a competitive bid. In addition, there is often a cost benefit due to favorable pricing derived from competitive bids conducted by larger governmental agencies that often purchase a larger volume of equipment over multiple years.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes Narrative: The purchases of the two ladder trucks and the replacement of the five engines and the ambulance are part of the budget plan for FY 2015-16. One of the ladder trucks is funded by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and one is funded by the Fire Department. The five fire engines and the ambulance are part of the County’s Vehicle Operations Internal Service Fund and as such, Fire funds have been accumulated over a number of years to cover the projected cost of the replacement vehicles. Any shortfall in the amount of funds accumulated over the years for the engines and ambulance will be covered by a transfer from the Fire Department to the Vehicle Operations Fund.

**Authored by:**

Eric Peterson, Fire Chief

**cc:**