



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  
**Department No.:** 031  
**For Agenda Of:** November 1, 2022  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**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 / Fire Warden (805) 681-5500  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Anthony Stornetta, Deputy Chief of Operations (805) 681-4202

**SUBJECT:** **Acceptance of Cash Donation Greater than \$10,000 from One805 and Request for Waiver of Competition for the Purchase of a Firehawk Litter Latch Kit from United Rotorcraft**

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**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 Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Santa Barbara County Fire Department (Fire Department) to accept a cash donation of \$90,000 from One805, a non-profit organization, to be used towards the purchase of a Litter Latch Kit; and
- b) Waive competitive bidding by the County of Santa Barbara pursuant to County Code § 2-39 and authorize the County Purchasing Manager to procure a Firehawk Litter Latch Kit from United Rotorcraft, a division of Air Methods, in an amount not to exceed \$90,500 (Attachment A) without being required to conduct a formal bid process; and
- c) Determine that the above recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the actions are the creation of a governmental funding mechanism or other government fiscal activity, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

On July 4, 2022, the Fire Department received a generous donation from One805, a non-profit supporting first responders in Santa Barbara County, in the amount of \$90,000. This donation was given with the intention of purchasing a Firehawk litter latch kit from United Rotorcraft for the Santa Barbara County Air Support Unit Sikorsky HH-60L Firehawk/Helicopter 964. The litter latch kit will equip the Firehawk to safely and effectively provide secure medical transport for two victims concurrently. The recommended action for the Board of Supervisors is to accept the referenced cash donation is in accordance with California Government Code Section 25355, and Policies & Procedures for the Acceptance of Donations and Gifts to the County.

Additionally, 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 the litter latch kit. The kit consists of two patient litters and floor latch kit assemblies and will equip the Firehawk to safely and effectively provide secure medical transport for two victims concurrently, serving an important public safety purpose. United Rotorcraft manufactures the only known medevac litter system that is compatible with the Firehawk's current configuration while allowing quick installation and removal to meet the multi-mission capabilities outlined by the Santa Barbara County Air Support Unit. Copter 964 is intended to quickly and efficiently alternate between firefighting, hoist rescue, and medevac missions. Competing products are more singular in nature and require a more permanent installation that could impede alternating between mission sets.

**Background:**

On December 11, 2018, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of a 2004 Sikorsky HH-60L Blackhawk helicopter. Since its purchase, the Blackhawk helicopter has undergone a full retrofit with all-new state of the art avionics, paint, and a new rescue hoist. In addition to the upgrades, the helicopter was tested, certified and transformed from a military-grade helicopter to a helicopter configured to meet the missions of public safety for the citizens of Santa Barbara County. The build-up was completed in October of 2020.

On November 17, 2020, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved an agreement between the County and United Rotorcraft, for the installation of a fixed belly tank on the Sikorsky HH-60L helicopter to carry and disperse water for firefighting purposes. The fixed tank required a modification of the landing gear to raise the aircraft in order to accommodate a 1,000-gallon water tank. The landing gear conversion and tank installation was completed in February 2022 and the aircraft became mission ready in Santa Barbara County on February 26, 2022.

On July 4, 2022, One805 donated \$90,000 to the Fire Department. The donation was made to purchase a Firehawk litter latch kit from United Rotorcraft to enhance the aircraft's multi-mission capabilities as a medevac aircraft.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The Fire Department will absorb the cost of the shipping (\$500) and the sales tax (\$6,975) within existing appropriations. This donation is covering costs that would otherwise be fully borne by the Fire District.

**Special Instructions:**

None.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: United Rotorcraft Firehawk Litter Latch Kit Product Description

**Authored by:**

Anthony Stornetta, Deputy Chief of Operations

**cc:**

Patrick Byde, Air & Wildland Battalion Chief