



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:** July 19, 2016  
**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) Type III 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.
- 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 two (2) Type III fire engines (also referred to as brush trucks) at approximately \$370,000 each as a sole source procurement from West-Mark.

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 been standardizing the department fleet of vehicles, especially the emergency response vehicles.

West-Mark has provided the Type III engines for the department for several years now and they have proven to be effective and reliable. Staff continually evaluate the various vendors and apparatus on the market and have found that West-Mark continues to meet the needs of the department's wildland fire mission, and exceed other comparable manufacturers when considering standard features and vehicle performance capability. West-Mark pricing is fair and reasonable when comparing the pricing of similar vehicles on the market, and West-Mark has been able to offer pricing discounts to the Fire Department, as a result of the uniformity of the Type III engine specifications over the years.

The West-Mark model Type III engine provides essential features that are not necessarily offered from other manufacturers as standard features. The Wildland (brush truck) is utilized primarily for wildland fire responses and is called on to perform and navigate effectively in the wildland environment, requiring these vehicles to have a shorter wheel base and higher ground clearance. The vehicle has a stainless steel wet side tank which produces one of the lowest centers of gravity on the market, a shorter wheel base than the standard provided by other manufacturers, and this model provides standard body compartmentation based on the configuration of the other units already in the Department's fleet.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes Narrative: The two (2) Type III 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. Any shortfall in the amount of funds accumulated over the years for the engines will be covered by a transfer from the Fire Department to the Vehicle Operations Fund.

**Staffing Impacts:**

N/A

**Authored by:**

**cc:**