



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: April 19, 2016
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: Fire Equipment Procurement

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 one hundred (100) sets of ballistic vests and helmets, 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 a competitive bid completed by another California agency; and
- b. Authorize the County Purchasing Agent to purchase sixteen (16) sets of extrication equipment as a sole source procurement without being required to conduct a formal bid process; and
- c. Approve Budget Revision Request #BJE-0004389 to reallocate existing appropriations; and
- d. 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 one hundred (100) sets of ballistic vests and helmets at approximately \$92,000 by using a competitive bid conducted by the City of Los Angeles.

The ballistic vests and helmets are new personal protective equipment necessary to provide improved safety of Fire Department personnel when responding to active shooter incidents. The particular vests chosen for purchase provide the greatest area of chest protection while allowing for the flexibility and mobility necessary for first responders. The 100 vests and helmets will be deployed on each frontline emergency response vehicle and will be utilized in accordance with new guidelines that have been established within the fire service and subsequently adopted in policy by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

The Fire Department is also requesting that the Board of Supervisors authorize the County's Purchasing Agent to purchase sixteen (16) sets of extrication equipment at approximately \$542,000 as a sole source procurement.

Each set of extrication equipment (commonly referred to as the jaws of life) consists of a power unit with specialized tools (spreader, cutter, telescopic ram) and hoses. This equipment saves critical time when extricating a patient from a motor vehicle accident. Most of the existing extrication equipment are well over 10 years old and several units have failed in recent months. The new Holmatro extrication equipment will expedite cutting through newer vehicles with stronger metals that the older extrication equipment were unable to cut through, thus improving patient extrication in a timely manner where seconds count.

The recommended action will also allow the Fire Department to obtain extrication equipment that is standardized across all department engines, resulting in efficiencies with parts, maintenance and operation of the equipment.

Background:

Ballistic vests and helmets have become a new reality for fire and medical first responders as a result of increased active shooter incidents across the country. Local and State of California fire and medical agencies have been working for several years to develop common guidelines for active shooter responses and as the initial policies and guidelines have been finalized, fire agencies throughout the state have begun to implement the policies and purchase personal protective equipment to strengthen the safety of firefighters and medical first responders.

Santa Barbara County Fire Department personnel participated in the development of the policies and guidelines and the department's Apparatus and Equipment committee evaluated several types of body armor before providing a recommendation for the specific ballistic vests and helmets being requested for purchase. The particular body armor being requested has already been purchased by the Los Angeles City Fire Department through a competitive bidding process and the Santa Barbara County Fire Department would like to "piggyback" on their bid.

The utilization of "piggyback" purchases creates efficiencies in the purchasing process by eliminating redundant bidding processes and timelines for equipment that has 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.

In regards to the extrication equipment, Fire Department personnel evaluated various equipment and determined that the Holmatro equipment best meets the needs of the department because the equipment is much lighter and easier to move during the extrication process and also is far superior in cutting through “new technology” metals as well as providing better capabilities during night operations. The Fire Department is requesting a sole source procurement due to the designation of Fire Service Specification and Supply (FS3) as the sole authorized dealer for Holmatro Rescue Systems within the State of California. The attached sole source letter from FS3 attests to this designation.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Appropriations that were originally intended to cover the purchase of two ladder trucks and related equipment in FY 2015-16 will be utilized to cover the \$634,000 cost of extrication equipment and body armor (ballistic vests and helmets). The ladder trucks and related equipment will not be received and paid for until FY 2016-17 and have been included in the Requested Budget for FY 2016-17.

Budget Revision Request #BJE-0004389 is necessary to meet object level financial requirements in FY 2015-16 and as such, transfers \$300,000 of appropriations from Other Financing Uses to Capital Assets.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board: Please send a copy of the minute order to the General Services Purchasing Manager and to the Fire Department attention: Diane Sauer.

Attachments:

1. Sole Source Letter from Fire Service Specification & Supply
2. Budget Revision Request #BJE-0004389