



Agenda Item # _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Aldinger and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Dennis Groat, Fire Chief
Bruce Moe, Finance Director
Gwen Eng, General Services Manager

DATE: November 6, 2007

SUBJECT: Authorize the Purchase of One Budgeted Paramedic Rescue Ambulance for the Fire Department from Leader Industries in the Amount of \$81,349.97

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council: a) waive formal bidding per Municipal Code Section 2.36.150 (cooperative purchasing) and b) award a purchase order to Leader Industries in the amount of \$81,349.97 for the budgeted purchase of a Paramedic rescue ambulance.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

Funds totaling \$90,000 are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Fleet Management Fund for the purchase and equipping of this vehicle. The remaining funds will be used as needed to outfit the vehicle with the usual necessary emergency communications equipment.

BACKGROUND:

The Fire Department currently maintains a fleet of four ambulances: one front-line Advanced Life Support (ALS), one Basic Life Support (BLS), and two reserves which can be used for ALS or BLS. The current front-line ALS unit was purchased in 2003. Ideally, these vehicles are kept in front-line service for a period of three years, and then transferred to less intensive use (reserve status or BLS units). Because of the extreme demands placed upon ALS vehicles from continuous emergency medical responses and transports, reliability diminishes relatively quickly. This results in more frequent service and maintenance. When this occurs, either the reserve unit or the BLS unit is used for front line ALS response. In some cases, this may result in the BLS program being suspended pending the availability of a rescue ambulance.

The new rescue ambulance will replace the front line ALS vehicle, ensuring that there is always an ambulance available, for both ALS and BLS transports. Approval of the purchase of the Paramedic ambulance will provide a timely replacement, and will greatly enhance the overall reliability of our Paramedic vehicles.

The City has a long and successful relationship with the recommended vendor. From the beginning of the Paramedic Program, the City has purchased all of our paramedic rescue

ambulances from this vendor. The current design was a collaborative effort between the vendor and Fire Department staff. This design includes; outside storage and access to the firefighter paramedics' firefighting turnout gear, shelving for our unique paramedic equipment, and the arrangement of the electronics in the cab (including radios and the mobile data computer). In addition, warranty service is administered with a high degree of performance, reliability and satisfaction.

DISCUSSION:

Whenever practical, the City “piggybacks” onto contracts which are economically advantageous. In this case, Leader Industries has offered the same price as extended to an existing Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) bid award, allowing us the opportunity to purchase an ambulance at the same price as their multiple vehicle order. OCFA had issued a formal bid in January 2007 for three paramedic rescue ambulances to ten vendors and received two responses. Of those responses, the OCFA awarded an order to the lowest bidder, Leader Industries. City staff would have followed the exact same steps to obtain prices for this vehicle; consequently, it is unlikely that we would gain any advantages by requesting formal bids ourselves.

As the City expands our environmentally friendly policies and practices, we look for opportunities to purchase alternative-fuel vehicles. Such options are limited for emergency vehicles. However, because this ambulance is diesel powered, we may have the ability in the future to use bio-diesel, subject to an analysis of the use of the fuel in our fleet.

Staff recommends that Council waive formal bidding per Municipal Code Section 2.36.150 (cooperative purchasing) and award an order to Leader Industries in the amount of \$81,349.97. If approved, the new vehicle will arrive in approximately four months. The oldest reserve unit will be donated to our Sister City, Santa Rosalia, which was approved by Council on September 18, 2007.