



Agenda Item #:



# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Montgomery and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Geoff Dolan, City Manager

**FROM:** Scott Ferguson, Fire Chief  
Bruce Moe, Finance Director  
Gwen Eng, General Services Manager

**DATE:** August 5, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of the Purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) from L.N. Curtis & Sons for an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$69,783.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council: a) waive formal bidding per Municipal Code Section 2.36.150 (cooperative purchasing), b) award a purchase order to L.N. Curtis & Sons for an amount not-to-exceed \$69,783, and c) appropriate \$50,661 from the unreserved General Fund balance which will be reimbursed at a later date by grant funding from the State Office of Homeland Security.

### FISCAL IMPLICATION:

A portion of this expenditure (\$19,122) is budgeted, while the balance (\$50,661) will be funded through a reimbursement grant from the State Office of Homeland Security. As a result, an appropriation of \$50,661 from the General Fund is needed. The General Fund will be reimbursed upon payment from the State.

### BACKGROUND:

In December 2007, the Federal Government released new standards (NFPA 1981) for breathing apparatus intended to create an enhanced level of protection for firefighters in the event of Chemical/Biological/Radiological/Nuclear/Explosive (CBRNE) incidents. Almost all of the 31 fire departments within Los Angeles County currently use a product that does not meet the new Federal CBRNE standard for SCBA. The Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association (LAAFCA) recognized this deficiency would occur and began to solicit grant funds to close the deficiency gap. What developed was a three-year homeland security grant program that would outfit every posted firefighter position within LA County with the same SCBA (2,883 firefighters on duty each day) and a \$21,000,000 grant was secured for this truly regional interoperable program. This grant allows every department to receive product that would cover the on-duty firefighter needs, with the agreed understanding that reserve equipment needs and specialized products (repair equipment, annual fit testing equipment, radio communication interfacing, etc.) would be borne from individual department budgets.

**DISCUSSION:**

The County of Los Angeles was the lead agency on the 2006 State Homeland Security Grant and through the bidding process, the "Warrior" model manufactured by Sperian Fire was selected. The County's Internal Services Division has created an agreement with L.N. Curtis to ensure guaranteed pricing and delivery. Grant guidelines require that each participating agency issue a purchase order to L.N. Curtis. If this purchase is approved, the new equipment will arrive in approximately 120 days. Future purchases of the Sperian product will be made through other grant opportunities or regular operating budget.

In addition, the Fire Department is seeking approval to move forward with this purchase once a grant extension letter has been approved by the State Office of Homeland Security (OHS). Said letter will reestablish the 2006 grant expiration date to early December 2008. All signs indicate that the grant extension will be approved, however, if the letter is not received, then staff requests permission to decline the grant purchase and thereby relieve the City of the full burden of the purchase.