



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
Ken Shuck, Fire Battalion Chief

DATE: October 21, 2008

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Budgeted Purchase of One Paramedic Rescue Ambulance for the Fire Department from Leader Industries in the Amount of \$87,069.90

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 Leader Industries in the amount of \$87,069.90 for the budgeted purchase of a Paramedic rescue ambulance, and c) approve a supplemental appropriation of \$5,570 from the Fleet Management Fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

Funds totaling \$100,000 are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Fleet Management Fund for the purchase and equipping of this vehicle. This amount is insufficient to fully outfit the vehicle with the necessary emergency electronics (\$17,600) and graphics (\$900). Additional monies totaling \$5,570 are needed to complete this vehicle, which are available in the Fleet Management Fund.

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. In addition, the Fire Department has recently had to place out of service our two oldest ambulances due to major mechanical failures, which has reduced the available ambulance fleet to three.

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.

DISCUSSION:

The City has a long and successful relationship with the recommended vendor, Leader Industries. 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.

Due to the City's longstanding relationship with the vendor, Leader Industries has offered the same price as our last purchase (which was through a cooperative bid) with a small increase. This escalation (\$2,354) is the cost differential between a '07 and '08 Ford chassis, which Leader Industries is passing through to the City at their cost.

As the City expands our environmentally friendly policies and practices, we look for opportunities such as alternative fuels. This ambulance is diesel powered therefore; we have the ability to use bio-diesel.

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 \$87,061.15. If approved, the new vehicle will arrive in approximately four months.