



06/02/09-8.

Agenda Item # _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Cohen 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: June 2, 2009

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) from Allstar Fire Equipment in the Amount of \$50,650.83

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council award Bid #781-09 to Allstar Fire Equipment in the amount of \$50,650.83 and appropriate \$50,650.83 from the unreserved General Fund balance which will be reimbursed at a later date by funding from the State Office of Homeland Security.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

These are not budgeted items; however, the purchase will be fully reimbursed by the State Office of Homeland Security. In addition, the City must first purchase the approved items and submit a request to the State Office of Homeland Security for reimbursement. As a result, an appropriation of \$50,650.83 from the General Fund is needed.

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 a SCBA (2,883 firefighters on duty each day) that meets these new standards. 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.

The County of Los Angeles was the lead agency on the 2006 State Homeland Security Grant as well as a formal bid for the equipment. It was initially hoped that all LA County agencies would

procure the same SCBA equipment; however, the bid was contested and declared void. As a result, the City cancelled the original order with L.N. Curtis & Sons that was approved by Council on August 5, 2008.

DISCUSSION:

Since this action affected all LA County agencies, the South Bay Fire Chiefs represented by Torrance, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, and El Segundo met to discuss the issue. It was determined that mutual aid occurred primarily amongst these five agencies and the majority have standardized on the Scott brand SCBA. Therefore, it was agreed that these agencies would upgrade and/or acquire the Scott NxG7 model.

Historically, the City has purchased by utilizing larger agencies' existing contracts. This is done because the State of California, L.A. County, and other large agencies purchase in greater quantities and consequently obtain preferential pricing. However, none were available that met the grant reimbursement deadlines, so staff solicited bids independently.

Bid Recaps

A total of four vendors were sent formal bid requests and two responses were received. The comparison below shows the aggregate price, including sales tax, discounts, and other fees.

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1. Allstar Fire Equipment	\$50,650.83
2. L.N. Curtis	No bid

The other vendors were polled why they didn't respond and both stated that the manufacturer offered special pricing to Allstar Fire Equipment, which was confirmed with the manufacturer, and that they would not be competitive. Staff believes the bid from Allstar Fire Equipment to be reasonable, and therefore recommends Council award an order to them. If this purchase is approved, delivery is expected in 4-6 weeks. Future purchases of the Scott product will be made through other grant opportunities or regular operating budget.