

# Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: June 28, 2004

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: Purchase of Three 36-Foot Aerial Bucket Trucks with Utility Body

## RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council: i) accept the bid dated March 4, 2004, submitted by Truck Hydraulic Equipment Co., Inc. in response to specifications for three 36-foot aerial bucket trucks with utility body, ii) reject all other bids, and iii) authorize the purchasing director to issue a purchase order contract to Truck Hydraulic Equipment, Co., Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$220,438.

## BACKGROUND:

The Power Delivery Business Unit of the Water and Power Department operates a fleet of three trucks, one assigned to each power troubleshooter, that support power outage mitigation and customer power trouble call response. The fleet of trucks along with their operators is on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to respond to customer electrical problems along with being the first responder during unplanned power outages and call response from Police and Fire.

Aerial bucket trucks are now industry standard for all overhead distribution applications, including trouble line response, and are also the standard for the telecommunications industry. In terms of functionality and safety. The aerial buckets provide vastly improved employee safety since pole climbing will be reduced. Use of an aerial bucket is also more efficient by reducing pre-climb personal equipment safety checks and other pre-climb procedures.

Each truck is capable of carrying sufficient fuel, materials and equipment to allow for extended field deployment in emergencies. Onboard bins and racks allow for basic tool and ladder storage to meet most field conditions.

The current seven year old trouble trucks do not have buckets since aerial buckets were not available in this size, when they were purchased. Consequently, lineworkers must physically climb power poles in order to complete work while standing on the pole. In the last two years there have been two lost time injuries that could have been avoided had the powerline worker been able to work from a bucket.

The proposed replacement trucks will be capable of service in situations where a full sized powerline truck and crew has been called for. For a variety of reasons a pole may be judged "not climbable for safety", for example, wires in the climbing area, tree branches in the climbing area, rotted or broken wood in the climbing area; and in those cases a line truck will be called out to the scene reducing unit overall efficiency and longer service interruptions. Larger bin storage and fuel cells in the replacement trucks will allow them to remain deployed, in emergency situations, longer than the current trucks. The proposed trucks are adequately suited to function as a transport vehicle that can operate, in a traditional sense, under various working conditions. The truck is of a size that there are no outriggers which will allow work on city streets with a minimum impact on traffic flow. This vehicle also functions as a material handling platform and mini warehouse. The features of this vehicle provide for rapid deployment in emergencies along with extended deployment capabilities.

If approved, the current trucks will be salvaged and there will be no increase in the Power Delivery fleet size.

A Notice Inviting Bids was published on February 19, 2004. In addition, specifications were mailed to seven dealers on the Purchasing Division's vendor list and posted on the City's web page for three 36-foot aerial bucket trucks with utility body. Seven bids were received and opened in the City Clerk's office on March 9, 2004. Three bidders met the criteria.

The bid prices are as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Truck Hydraulic Equipment Co., Inc.	\$220,437.05
Thorson Motor Center	222,783.26
Truck Hydraulic Equipment Co., Inc.	225,357.02*

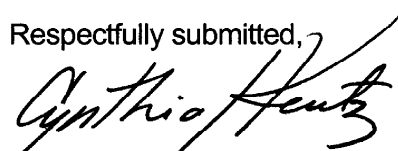
\*Alternate bid

The bid that was submitted by Truck Hydraulic Equipment Co., Inc. is the lowest responsive bid meeting the requirements of the specifications. Based on this, it is recommended that the City Council authorize the issuance of a purchase order contract to Truck Hydraulic Equipment Co., Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$220,438. Truck Hydraulic also submitted an alternate bid that included, non-essential optional items not contained in the City's specification.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

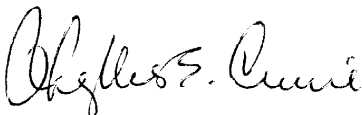
This equipment is budgeted for replacement and was identified on the FY2004 Power Delivery Business Unit Operating Budget in account 8505-401-843210-0392.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia J. Kurtz  
City Manager

Approved by:



Phyllis E. Currie  
General Manager  
Water and Power Department

Prepared by:



George C. Wilson, Jr.  
Business Unit Director, Power Delivery  
Water and Power Department

Attachment