

Agenda Report

July 15, 2019

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Fire Department

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE ORDER CONTRACT WITH L.N. CURTIS & SONS TO PROVIDE WILDLAND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 21065 of CEQA and Section 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines and, as such, no environmental document pursuant to CEQA is required for the project; and
2. i) Accept the bid dated May 2, 2019 submitted by L.N. Curtis & Sons in response to specifications for wildland personal protective equipment (PPE), ii) reject all other bids received, and iii) authorize the issuance of a purchase order contract with L.N. Curtis & Sons for an amount not-to-exceed \$150,000 for purchases of wildland PPE for fire personnel.

BACKGROUND:

Proper protective clothing and gear for firefighters are critical for preventing injury and illness, and for providing protection during responses to emergency incidents. The composition of tactical wildland PPE worn on incidents is particularly important as it protects firefighters from heat stress and exhaustion in warm environments. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) require wildland firefighting PPE manufacturers to be certified, and to ensure products have been tested to meet specific fire-resistant performance standards and radiant protective requirements.

In early fiscal year (FY) 2018, the Fire Department determined the need to plan for replacement of its wildland PPE after conducting a thorough risk analysis on the ages and conditions of existing inventory. The Department currently utilizes a double-layer

model of wildland PPE which may contribute to a number of challenges. When compared to newer wildland PPE, double-layer PPE is heavier, less breathable, and more susceptible to heat-related injuries or illnesses. It can also contribute to longer response times by hindering mobility. After researching industry standards and surveying equipment used by surrounding fire agencies, the Department's PPE Committee identified a single-layer specification for wildland PPE. Single-layer technology is the most high-performing PPE fabric currently available, yielding exceptional thermal heat loss and protective performance properties. Single-layering can help protect against external thermal threats to prevent burn and heat stress injuries, and can also increase firefighter mobility and improve operational performance. Transitioning to this technology can improve both emergency responses and employee safety.

In October 2017, the Department applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to transition to single-layer wildland PPE. The Department did not receive AFG 2017 awards, and reapplied in 2018. Award decisions for AFG 2018 have been delayed. However, due to timing and manufacturer production times, the Department has decided to move forward with the purchase of single-layer wildland PPE with operating funds from FY 2020, so that all 161 sworn personnel can be properly equipped for the forthcoming wildland season. As the number of brush fires reach historic highs throughout California, enhanced wildland PPE is critical. From FY 2017 to date, the Fire Department has participated in 35 mutual aid deployments across the State. These deployments can extend up to 21 days and personnel are expected to be self-sufficient with their PPE and undergarments. Wildland PPE is also used on brush and vegetation fires within the City, and on mutual aid and automatic aid deployments to surrounding agencies.

The Department currently purchases wildland PPE through AllStar Fire Equipment on an as-needed basis. The models and ages of the Department's wildland PPE vary widely across personnel. Standardizing wildland PPE is another benefit of establishing this purchase order contract.

On May 2, 2019 the City published a Notice Inviting Bids to provide wildland PPE as required. Staff requested for vendors to bid on 165 units of single-layer tactical wildland jackets and 165 units of single-layer tactical wildland pants following technical specifications detailed in the Bid Invitation. The bid was posted on the City's online bidding site, Planet Bids, and notices were advertised in the Pasadena Journal and the Pasadena Weekly in accordance with City Charter and Municipal Code provisions. A total of 662 vendors were notified, of which 14 prospective vendors downloaded the bid. None of the prospective bidders were local to Pasadena.

Four bids were received and publicly opened on May 15, 2019. Two bids were considered non-responsive as the vendors did not follow bid instructions and did not provide required documents listed in the Bid Invitation. Of the responsive bids received for the wildland jackets and pants, the results are as follows:

<u>Bidders</u>	<u>Total Weighted Bid Price</u>
L.N. Curtis & Sons., Oakland, CA	\$86,302
Municipal Emergency Services, Inc., Southbury, CT	\$103,734

The bids were evaluated by Fire Department staff and L.N. Curtis & Sons was found to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and is able to provide all specified goods and meet all indicated requirements. L.N. Curtis & Sons is a distributor of firefighting gear and safety equipment, and the Fire Department has issued previous purchased orders with the vendor for a range of fire equipment in the past. In FY 2019, the Fire Department spent approximately \$50,000 with L.N. Curtis & Sons on equipment to be stocked on fire engines and trucks, including power tools and hand tools, thermal imagers, gas detectors, and firefighting foam.

Expenditures are estimated to be approximately \$150,000 for this purchase of wildland PPE. The Department will purchase two pairs of single-layer tactical wildland pant and one tactical wildland jacket for each of the 161 sworn fire personnel. These items are compliant with OSHA, NFPA 1975 and 1977, are flame resistant, durable, includes thermal protection, and are made with high breathability to reduce the risk of heat stroke and exhaustion. NFPA recommends fire departments retire PPE with a manufacture date of more than 10 years.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed contract furthers the City Council's strategic planning goals to ensure public safety.

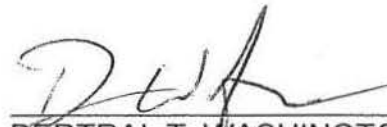
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The action proposed herein is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 21065 of CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378. The authorization to enter into a contract with a vendor to provide wildland PPE is a continuing administrative activity (i.e., purchasing of supplies). This action would not cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Therefore, the proposed action is not a "project" subject to CEQA, as defined in Section 21065 of CEQA and Section 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Since the action is not a project subject to CEQA, no environmental document is required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

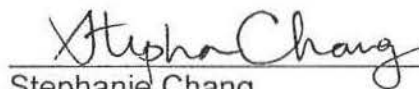
The maximum cost of this action will be \$150,000. Funding will be addressed by the utilization of existing FY 2020 budgeted appropriations in the Fire Department's General Fund operating budget account for Fire Personal Protective Equipment (10131011-810900) and Fire and Rescue Services (10131015-810900). There are no anticipated impacts to other operational programs or capital projects as a result of this action.

Respectfully submitted,




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