

Agenda Report

April 26, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Fire Department

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE ORDER CONTRACT WITH STRYKER SALES CORPORATION TO PROVIDE POWER LIFT SYSTEMS FOR RESCUE AMBULANCES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$138,354

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed contract is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3); and
2. Authorize a purchase order contract with Stryker Sales Corporation for purchases of power lift systems for rescue ambulances an amount not to exceed \$138,354. Competitive bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002 (C) contracts for labor, materials, supplies or services available from only one vendor; and
3. Grant the proposed contract an exemption from the Competitive Selection process pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code Section 4.08.049(8) contracts for which the City's best interests are served.

BACKGROUND:

The Fire Department provides Advanced Life Support (ALS) levels of care to the community and responds to approximately 20,000 calls for service each year, with approximately 16,000 of the calls categorized as medical emergencies. On average, 11,800 of these incidents result in patient transports by paramedics annually.

Paramedics experience the highest incidence of work-related injury, nearly five times higher than rates in any other sector. Since 2018, workplace injuries related to gurneys at the Fire Department have totaled over \$318,000 across nine workers compensation cases. These incidents are directly associated with back and stomach injuries acquired while lifting a patient to a gurney. Injury-on-duty incurs short and long-term costs to the

department, city and community. Cost elements include lost work time, possibly higher insurance premiums, disability and early retirement payments, overtime for substitutes, costs to train replacement personnel, as well as workers compensation payments, medical expenses, long-term care, and administrative costs. Studies have shown that paramedics who have access to stretchers with a battery-powered hydraulic system and an assisted ambulance-loading feature experience fewer musculoskeletal injuries on the job and reflect financial reductions for the City in injury-related costs. Installing power lift systems in rescue ambulances (RAs) can help to significantly reduce back injuries, decrease risks of developing a low back disorder, and lower exertion for paramedics.

There are two known manufacturers that provide powered ambulance cots and loading systems, Stryker Sales Corporation and Ferno-Washington Inc. The Department currently uses Stryker's systems in two of the five frontline RAs, and manual gurneys on the remaining three frontline RAs. The Department would like to standardize all frontline RAs with Stryker's power lift system. Maintaining consistent equipment across RAs allows paramedics to transition effortlessly during frequent rotations, reduce training between different systems, and minimize risks of injury by operating different equipment.

Due to the high number of transports the Department's paramedics conduct, safety for operators while loading and unloading patients is crucial. Stryker's system will eliminate the need for the paramedics to manually lift the patient and gurney in and out of the ambulance. The powered ambulance cot (Power-Pro XT) has auxiliary or optional equipment such as defibrillator mounts, oxygen tank holder, response bag racks/locations and an integrated platform to accommodate large sized patients. The Power Load is a mechanical device that is permanently installed in the ambulance and works in conjunction with the cot, lifting both the cot and the patient into and out of the ambulance. The Power Load lifting capacity is 318 kg (700 lbs). The equipment will be purchased directly from the manufacturer, Stryker, at a cost of \$138,354.

Stryker warranties hard goods for 3 years, and ongoing maintenance costs for the power lift systems are covered by an existing contract the Fire Department has with the vendor. The Department's current 5-year contract with Stryker for \$1,000,000 covers maintenance and repair services for power lift systems, AEDs and monitors/defibrillators, and additional medical parts and accessories.

It is in the City's best interest for the Fire Department to transition from manual gurneys to the power lift systems in all frontline RAs. The procurement of three power lift systems will standardize consistency of equipment between ambulances, reduce risks of cumulative trauma injuries for paramedics, allow for effective servicing and maintenance of equipment, and balance the asset management of power lift systems in future years. Additionally, it will move the Fire Department towards a zero lift policy, providing safe treatment and transport of patients and a safe workplace for paramedics.

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 and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060 (c)(2), 15060 (c)(3), and 15378. The purchase of power lift systems is a continuing administrative and maintenance activity. This action would not cause either a direct physical change or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Therefore, the proposed action is not a "project" subject to CEQA as defined in Sections 21065 and 15378, and no environmental document is required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

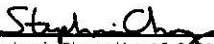
The total cost of this action will be \$138,354. Funding for this action will be addressed by existing budgeted appropriations in the Fire Department's General Fund operating budget account for Fire - Emergency Medical Services (10131016-850400). There are no anticipated impacts to other operational programs or capital projects as a result of this action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Approved by:



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