

Agenda Report

To: CITY COUNCIL **DATE:** June 3, 2002
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: Purchase of 30 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Units (SCBA)
For the Fire Department

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council: i) accept the bid dated May 7, 2002, submitted by Lifecom Inc. in response to specifications for the purchase of 30 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Units, ii) reject all other bids and iii) authorize the issuance of a purchase order contract to Lifecom Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$82,227 iv) authorize the City Manager to approve without further council action the purchase of an additional 30 SCBA units in fiscal year 2003 pending the approval of the fiscal year 2003 budget.

BACKGROUND

Self-Contained breathing apparatus units allow firefighters to enter atmospheres filled with smoke and toxic fumes. The Pasadena Fire Department currently has an inventory of 125 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Units purchased as long ago as 1977. In order to meet NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) Standards the Fire Department needs to upgrade the existing inventory with new, lighter and more technically advanced units.

The new units increase the level of safety for firefighters because they weigh less and provide additional safety features that are not on the current units.

The newer units include:

- Dual low air pressure safety alarms.
- Buddy breathing capabilities that allow one firefighter to supply fresh air to his/her fellow firefighters who have depleted their air supply.
- Firefighter distress locators that will automatically arm when a firefighter becomes motionless for a set amount of time.

On April 25, 2002, a Notice Inviting Bids was published in *The Pasadena Journal*. In addition, specifications were mailed to seven vendors listed on the Purchasing Division's vendor list who specialize in this type of apparatus and the Notice was posted on the City's web page. Three responsive bids were received and opened in the City Clerk's office on May 7, 2002. The bid results are as follows:

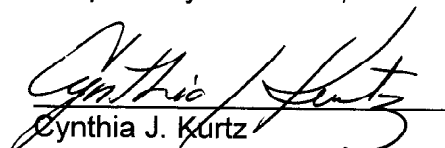
<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>PER UNIT</u>	<u>TOTAL UNITS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Lifecom Inc.	\$2,532.00	X 30	= \$ 82,226.70
Allstar Fire Equipment	\$2,628.00	X 30	= \$ 85,344.30
Vallen Safety	\$2,846.71	X 30	= \$ 92,446.90

The bid from Lifecom Inc. is the lowest responsive and responsible bid. Therefore, it is recommended that Lifecom Inc. be awarded the purchase order for 30 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Units (SCBA).

FISCAL IMPACT

The Pasadena Fire Department's approved fiscal year 2002 operating budget includes funds for 30 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Units. Sufficient funds are available in account #8504-101-363010. The bid specification allows for the purchase of 30 additional units at the same unit price in fiscal year 2003. The Fire Department has requested funding in the fiscal year 2003 budget to purchase the additional units.


Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager

Approved by:


Ernest Mitchell
Fire Chief

Prepared by:


Patricia Romo
Management Analyst