

AGENDA



Thursday, April 10, 2008

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 43**

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a 24-month requirements supply contract with GT DISTRIBUTORS, INC., Austin, TX to purchase badges for sworn personnel of the Austin Police Department in an estimated amount not to exceed \$111,654, with two 12-month extension options in an estimated amount not to exceed \$17,922 per extension option, for a total estimated contract amount not to exceed \$147,498.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$91,500 is available in the Mayor Roy Butler Badge Program grant. Funding in the amount of \$2,232 is available in the Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of the Austin Police Department. Funding for the remaining 18 months of the original contract period and extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Sydney Ceder, Senior Buyer/974-2035

Purchasing Language: Lowest bid meeting specification of three bids received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9D of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this solicitation.

Prior Council Action: 12/13/07, Approval of grant funding.

This contract will establish a supply agreement for the purchase of a new customized style of badge for sworn personnel of the Austin Police Department (APD) manufactured by V.H. Blackinton & Co. 1,569 badges will be purchased in the initial order. This will be enough for every officer, the current cadet class and promotions.

On December 13, 2007, the City Council approved acceptance of \$91,500 in grant funding provided by the Mayor Roy Butler Badge Program. APD seeks to enhance the public safety by adopting a unique and immediately recognizable uniform for its sworn police officers. The badge currently worn by Austin police officers is a fairly small, generic model that is easily replicated. This generic badge is similar to that worn by other local law enforcement agencies and security guards and is available for purchase by the general public through law enforcement catalogues and online websites, such as eBay. The fact that the current badge is indistinguishable from that of other entities causes safety concerns among the public and officers. The current badge has a random number on the face that does not correspond to the employee number of that officer. The true employee number is provided on the officer's nametag.

The new badge will include a number that directly corresponds to the officer's employee number which will make it easier for a citizen to make reference to or contact a particular officer at a later date. When approaching, or being approached by an officer, citizens should feel confident that the officer is an official employee of the Austin Police Department. The APD uniform and badge are associated with the full legal authority of a duly recognized police officer to immediately act upon police matters and provide police services to the public.

The custom badge design and artwork created by V.H. Blackinton & Co. Inc. may not be reproduced in any form without the consent of the Austin Police Department. Issuance of the new style badge to all current officers is anticipated to be complete by June 2008.

MBE/WBE solicited: 0/0

MBE/WBE bid: 0/0

PRICE ANALYSIS

- a. Adequate competition.
- b. One hundred fifty-three notices were sent, including one MBE and three WBEs. Three bids were received, with no response from the MBE/WBEs.
- c. This is the first purchase of this type; therefore, there is no pricing history available.

APPROVAL JUSTIFICATION

- a. Lowest bid received meeting specifications.
- b. The Purchasing Office concurs with the Austin Police Department's recommended award.
- c. Advertised in the Austin American-Statesman and on the Internet.