

AGENDA



Thursday, August 21, 2008

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 21**

Subject: Approve ratification of a contract through the TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT PURCHASING COOPERATIVE (BUYBOARD) with PHILPOTT MOTORS, LTD, Nederland, TX for the purchase of 20 hybrid utility vehicles in an amount not to exceed \$535,874.38.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$106,485.36 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Vehicle Acquisition Fund. Funding in the amount of \$190,271.96 is available in the 2007-2008 Capital Budget of the Austin Water Utility. Funding in the amount of \$53,042.68 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection & Development Review Department. Funding in the amount of \$132,606.70 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Critical One-Time Budget for the General Fund of the Watershed Protection & Development Review Department. Funding in the amount of \$53,467.68 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Health & Human Services Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Ron Mazzarella, Fleet Buyer/974-2837

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). This contract is a Cooperative Purchase; therefore, it is exempted under Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code and no goals were established for this solicitation.

Boards and Commission Action: Scheduled for review by the Water and Wastewater Commission on August 20, 2008.

On July 9, 2008, the City received notification from Ford Motor Company of a July 18th deadline for governmental fleet buyers to place orders for Ford Escape hybrid vehicles for delivery through the end of calendar year 2009. A purchase order was issued on July 18, 2008 for the purchase of 20 Ford hybrid Escapes vehicles.

This contract includes the purchase of 20 Ford Escape gasoline-electric hybrid utility vehicles. Four replacement hybrid utility vehicles will be assigned to the Austin Fire Department, five will be assigned to the Austin Water Utility, and one will be assigned to the Watershed Protection & Development Review Department. Two of the new hybrid utility vehicles will be assigned to new full time employees in the Environmental Health Division of the Health & Human Services Department and two will be assigned to the Austin Water Utility. Six new hybrid utility vehicles will be assigned to new full time employees in the Building Inspection Division of the Watershed Protection & Development Review Department.

Austin Energy's Climate Protection staff and Fleet have worked together to develop a vehicle purchasing process in our progress towards our citywide objective of obtaining carbon neutrality by 2020. The development of the purchasing criteria incorporates emissions impact, available technologies on the market, physical demands on the vehicle, and service application. These criteria are applied to all vehicles submitted to Fleet for purchase.

The vehicles in this RCA has been recommended for purchase utilizing a process that involves the Fleet Officer, affected Department Director and Assistant City Manager (ACM). ACM approval is required for all new additions to the City's fleet prior to any requests being made to the Purchasing Office. Departments review the list of vehicles determined eligible for replacement by Fleet Services based on mileage, hours of use, and maintenance costs. From that list, priority uses are determined within the departments, and the departments' proposed equipment is reviewed by the Fleet Service Center Manager to insure the specified vehicle is appropriate for the use.

The replacement vehicles have met the Fleet Officer's eligibility criteria for replacement. The Fleet Service Center Manager has inspected the vehicles to be replaced, and determined that the mileage or hours of use of the pieces proposed for replacement cannot be increased without risking a significant increase in repair costs and loss of productivity due to down time. The twelve new pieces of equipment were also sent to Fleet Services and forwarded to the appropriate ACM for approval.

Philpott Motors is under contract with BuyBoard to supply vehicles statewide as a result of a competitive bidding process. Utilizing the BuyBoard contract provides for volume discount pricing as well as the earliest delivery of the equipment.