

AGENDA



Thursday, March 12, 2009

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 12

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a contract through the HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (H-GAC) with CALDWELL COUNTRY CHEVROLET, Caldwell, TX for the purchase of 25 light duty vehicles in an amount not to exceed \$781,551.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$60,543 is included in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of the Aviation Department. Funding in the amount of \$28,868 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of Municipal Court. Funding in the amount of \$462,503 is included in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Capital Budget of Austin Energy. Funding in the amount of \$59,567 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department. Funding in the amount of \$170,470 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Capital Budget of Austin Water Utility.

Fiscal Note: Fiscal notes are attached.

For More Information: Steve Cocke, Fleet Buyer/974-2003

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 Local Government Code and no goals were established for this solicitation.

These vehicles have been recommended for purchase utilizing a process that involves the Fleet Officer, affected Department Directors, and Assistant City Managers (ACMs). 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 vehicles are reviewed by the Fleet Service Center Manager to insure the specified vehicles are appropriate for the use.

This contract is for the purchase of nine new and 16 replacement light duty vehicles to be distributed among Austin Energy, Aviation Department, Watershed Protection and Development Review Department, Austin Water Utility, and Municipal Court.

All 16 replacement vehicles have met the Fleet Officer's eligibility criteria for replacement. The Fleet Service Center Managers have inspected each vehicle to be replaced, and determined that the mileage or hours of use of each vehicle proposed for replacement cannot be increased without risking a significant increase in repair costs and loss of productivity due to down time. The nine new vehicles were also sent to Fleet Services and forwarded to the appropriate ACM for approval.

Included in this purchase are the following light duty vehicles:

AUSTIN ENERGY:

6 Chevrolet 2500 Pickups, 4x4, LPG Fuel - 2 New, 4 Replacements

6 Chevrolet Tahoe Utility Vehicles, 4x2, E85 Fuel - 4 New, 2 Replacements
2 Chevrolet Tahoe Utility Vehicles, 4x4, E85 Fuel- 2 Replacements

AVIATION DEPARTMENT:

1 Chevrolet 2500 Pickup, 4x2, LPG Fuel - Replacement
1 Chevrolet 2500 Pickup, 4x4, LPG Fuel - Replacement

WATERSHED PROTECTION & DEVELOPMENT REVIEW DEPARTMENT:

2 Chevrolet 2500 Pickups, 4x4, LPG Fuel - 1 New, 1 Replacement

AUSTIN WATER UTILITY:

4 Chevrolet 2500 Pickups, 4x2, LPG Fuel - 4 Replacements
2 Chevrolet 2500 Pickups, 4x4, LPG Fuel - 1 New, 1 Replacement

MUNICIPAL COURT:

1 Chevrolet 2500 Pickup, 4x2, LPG Fuel – New

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.

Eight of these vehicles are powered by E85 flex fuel, meaning they can operate on a blend of 85% ethanol with 15% gasoline. E85 provides roughly a 15% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions relative to gasoline. The other 17 vehicles will be delivered with gasoline engines that will be converted to burn liquefied propane gas (LPG). LPG reduces greenhouse gas emission by roughly 18% compared to gasoline.

Caldwell Country Chevrolet is under contract with HGAC to supply various types of vehicles statewide as a result of a competitive bidding process. Utilizing HGAC contracts provides for volume discount pricing as well as the earliest opportunity to get the City's equipment on order.