

AGENDA



Thursday, December 16, 2010

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 55**

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a contract through the Texas Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard) with WHEELED COACH INDUSTRIES, Winter Park, FL, for the purchase of six ambulances in an amount not to exceed \$969,680.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$808,066.65 is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Vehicle Acquisition Fund. Funding in the amount of \$161,613.35 is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget of the Emergency Medical Services Department.

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

For More Information: Sharon Patterson, Senior Buyer/972-4014

MBE/WBE: This Cooperative Contract is exempt from the MBE/WBE Ordinance. This exemption is 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 contract.

This contract is for the purchase of five replacement and one new Ford F-450 cab and chassis mounted with Wheeled Coach ambulance bodies that will be assigned to the Emergency Medical Services Department.

The one new ambulance is currently scheduled to be assigned to Avery Ranch. The five replacement ambulances are currently scheduled for assignment to Medic Station 3, Breckenridge; Medic Station 4, Webberville; Medic Station 5, Lamar; Medic Station 11, McCarty Lane; and Medic Station 13, Rundberg.

The Austin Climate Protection Program team and Fleet staff 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.

These vehicles are powered with an engine capable of burning biodiesel (B20) fuel. In line with Austin Climate Protection Program goals, B20 provides an approximate 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions versus using gasoline and an approximate 5% reduction versus using petro-diesel. In addition to the environmental impacts, per-unit acquisition costs are reduced, maintenance is more economical because of wider availability of parts and service, and these ambulances provide enhanced crew and passenger safety,

The vehicles in this RCA 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 reviewed 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 were determined within the departments, and the proposed equipment was reviewed by the Fleet Service Center Manager to insure the specified vehicle is appropriate for the use.

All of these 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 Purchasing Office conducted a price analysis to determine that the BuyBoard contract was the best value to the City. The Wheeled Coach Industries contract offered the lowest prices and is able to provide vehicles that fully meet the needs of the Emergency Medical Services Department. Wheeled Coach Industries is contracted through BuyBoard to supply these types of vehicles to other public entities statewide as a result of a competitive bidding process. Utilizing BuyBoard contracts provides for volume discount pricing as well as the earliest opportunity to place the City's vehicles on order.