

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council	Item ID:	13099	Agenda Number	27.
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Meeting Date:	March 8, 2012
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Department:	Purchasing
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Subject

Authorize award and execution of a contract through the Texas Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard) with CALDWELL COUNTRY CHEVROLET, for the purchase of three Tahoes for the Emergency Medical Services Department and one Equinox for the Austin Convention Center Department in an amount not to exceed \$103,932.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$20,384 is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget of the Austin Convention Center Department. Funding in the amount of \$83,548 is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Capital Budget of the Emergency Medical Services Department through the St. David's Foundation Capital Grant.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	Cooperative Purchase
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Prior Council Action:	
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For More Information:	Sydney Ceder, Senior Buyer/974-2035
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Boards and Commission Action:	
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MBE / WBE:	This Cooperative Purchase 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.
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Related Items:	
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Additional Backup Information

This contract is for the purchase of three new Model Year 2012 Chevrolet Tahoes which will be assigned to the Emergency Medical Services Department (EMS) and one new Model Year 2012 Chevrolet Equinox which will be assigned to the Austin Convention Center Department (ACCD).

The reason for the purchase of a Tahoe is that it provides the necessary towing capability, interior storage capacity of equipment, and vehicle performance, which fully meets the needs of the using departments. The Tahoe is the only vehicle of its type which carries a police-pursuit rating required by Public Safety departments. To have this rating, a vehicle must have high-performing acceleration, suspension, and braking system; all of which ensure greater maneuverability, quicker response times, and better visibility for the driver.

EMS Medics and Medical Officers use the Tahoe to respond to Code 3 calls such as cardiac arrests, complicated births, rescues, and other high-priority emergency medical calls.

The Security and Safety Division of the Austin Convention Center will use the Equinox for a security patrol vehicle to provide protection and presence to the perimeter of the Austin Convention Center, the Palmer Events Center, as well as patrols of the three associated parking facilities under ACCD.

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.

All four 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 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 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 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 vehicles in this purchase will be assigned to the following City Departments:

Austin Convention Center Department

1 Chevrolet Equinox – New

Emergency Medical Services Department

3 Chevrolet Tahoes - New

The Caldwell Country Chevrolet contract offers the lowest price and is able to provide vehicles that fully meet the needs of the using departments. Caldwell Country Chevrolet 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.