

CIP EXPENSE DETAIL

DATE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:
CONTACT DEPARTMENT(S):

8/28/14
Aviation

SUBJECT:

Authorize award and execution of a contract with COBUS INDUSTRIES, LP for the purchase of two low floor airfield buses in a total amount not to exceed \$1,100,000.

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Capital Budget of the Aviation Department.

CURRENT YEAR IMPACT:

Department:	Aviation
Project Name:	Airside Passenger Transports and Airstairs
Fund/Department/Unit:	4910-8107-4062
	Department of Aviation
Funding Source:	Airport Capital Fund
Current Appropriation:	2,000,000.00
Unencumbered Balance:	2,000,000.00
Amount of This Action:	(1,100,000.00)
Remaining Balance:	<u>900,000.00</u>

ANALYSIS / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This contract is for the purchase of two low floor airfield transport buses that will be used to unload and load passengers from airplanes on flights that are staged away from available airport terminals on airport hardstand. These buses are specifically designed to provide service on the ramps and aprons at airports. They are constructed on a low profile chassis for easy access, designed to hold up to 112 passengers, and are constructed from aluminum to maximize fuel efficiency when compared to normal buses.

The Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) has seen a growth in air traffic due to special events being held in the Austin area, resulting in an increase in both domestic and international flights. ABIA is also the primary airport for flights being diverted from the Dallas and Houston airports due to inclement weather in those cities. Federal Aviation Administration rules requires any flight that is delayed on the tarmac for more than three hours, to disembark the passengers from the plane, which often happens away from a terminal. These buses will be used to assist in meeting these FAA rules for planes staged on the airport hardstand.

Fleet Services and the Office of Sustainability have worked together to develop a vehicle purchasing process leading to the citywide objective of obtaining carbon neutrality by 2020. The purchasing criteria incorporate criteria pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions impact, available technologies on the market, physical demands on the vehicle, service application, and life-cycle cost. These criteria are applied to all vehicle purchase requests submitted to Fleet.

Two of these vehicles and equipment are powered with engines capable of operating on B20 biodiesel (20% biodiesel blended with 80% petro-diesel). The B20 biodiesel that the City of Austin currently purchases is TXLED compliant, ultra-low sulfur diesel, with the TCEQ approved KERN additive. A new technology for vehicles operating on B20 produces at least 10% less particulate matter, at least 10% less carbon monoxide, and at least 10% less unburned hydrocarbons than those running on petro-diesel. They also reduce life cycle greenhouse gas emissions by at least 15%.

The vehicles and equipment in this RCA has 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.