



**Purchasing Contract
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 41
AGENDA DATE: Thu 01/13/2005
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SUBJECT: Ratify a contract through the Texas Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard) with FREIGHTLINER OF AUSTIN, Austin, TX, for one mobile communications command vehicle for the Emergency Medical Services Department in an amount not to exceed \$421,459.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Special Revenue Fund of the Office of Emergency Management. Funding was provided through the Domestic Preparedness Equipment Grant from the Office for Domestic Preparedness, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING Purchasing	DIRECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT: for Emergency Medical Services; Financial and Administrative Services - Fleet Services;	AUTHORIZATION: <u>Vickie Schubert</u>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Fudge, Supervisor Senior Buyer/974-2033

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PURCHASING: Cooperative Purchasing.

MBE / WBE: N/A

The Capitol Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) used FY 2003 Federal Homeland Security Grant Program Regional Grant funds to award a project to the City of Austin to develop a regional Mobile Communications Command unit, with Emergency Medical Services Department (EMS) as the lead agency. The other CAPCOG member counties include: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson.

Contract No. 787IL000519 was issued on December 20, 2004, to Freightliner of Austin for the purchase of one mobile regional communications command vehicle. The truck body is manufactured by MBF Industries, Inc., Sanford, Florida, and it will be mounted on a medium duty truck chassis manufactured by Freightliner. The grant contract requires delivery of the vehicle and receipt of invoice no later than June 30, 2005. Delaying execution of the contract would likely result in loss of this highly specialized chassis (by sale to some other entity) and a subsequent delay of approximately 120 days to procure another one. This delay, added to the estimated 5-6 month construction time, would cause the City to miss the grant deadline and loss of any reimbursement.

The communications command vehicle is equipped with the latest communications technology. It also provides a mobile command post capability directly at an incident scene within the Central Texas area. There are two major work areas on the vehicle: a communications area with positions for two to three



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communications personnel and a command area that can support a command group of up to six persons. Extensive radio communications equipment will provide effective communications interoperability for every agency within the CAPCOG region operating at an incident scene. The vehicle is completely self-contained with power and lighting and has sufficient fuel to operate for extended periods on-scene. The communications command truck will be assigned to EMS, but is also available to respond with any of the regional Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive Device Strike Teams developed by CAPCOG.

The mobile communications command unit will be used for a broad range of incident types within the City of Austin and will have the required regional response capability for major incidents. Public safety divisions have defined the following initial incident types for routine responses: major fires, mass casualty incidents, SWAT operations, major planned events (e.g. Mardi Gras, New Years Eve, Halloween), airport incidents, hazardous material spills, extended technical rescues, or any other event that requires on-scene communication and/or command support.

The truck will be stationed at the Central Fire/EMS station located at 5th Street and Trinity and will be staffed using current EMS and Fire personnel who have been trained and achieved specific competencies on the technology and systems included in the unit.

The truck chassis and the custom-built communications command body were awarded to Freightliner of Austin as a result of a competitive bid through BuyBoard.



M E M O R A N D U M

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: Steve Collier, Director, Office of Emergency Management

Date: January 7, 2004

Subject: Public Health and Public Safety Purchase of Mobile Communications – Command Vehicle

The January 13, 2005 agenda includes an RCA requesting ratification of a contract with Freightliner of Austin for manufacture of a specialized Mobile Communications-Command vehicle for the amount of \$421,459.

This vehicle is being purchased with Federal Homeland Security Grant funds as specified in a contract with the Texas Engineering Extension Service acting as the State Administrative Agent. Council approved acceptance of this grant, which stipulated purchase of this and other vehicles, on August 28, 2003 and approved a budget amendment on May 6, 2004. This is a unique, highly specialized vehicle. The vehicle is intended to respond to major emergencies, particularly those associated with homeland security issues, throughout the 10-county Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) region. Its design was complex and lengthy requiring input from technical and public safety representatives from throughout this region over a period of approximately 18 months. Unfortunately the grant timing requirements and the vendor construction and delivery timing required an expedited procurement agreement. Failure to meet the delivery deadline could result in loss of \$421,459 in grant funds.

The contract requires delivery of the vehicle and receipt of invoice by June 30, 2005. A major factor in meeting this deadline is securing an available truck chassis on which to mount the communications-command body. The vendor indicated it could meet the deadline if it could procure a currently available chassis which required executing a contract with the City by December 31st, 2004. Delaying execution of the contract would likely have resulted in loss of this chassis and a subsequent delay of approximately 120 days in procuring another one. This delay, added to the estimated 5-6 month construction time, would cause us to miss the contract deadline.

The purchase order with Freightliner of Austin was signed on December 20, 2004.

This vehicle will be stationed in Austin and used on a regular basis by Austin public safety forces in responding to major incidents such as large fires, hazardous materials spills, mass casualty incidents, and crowd control situations.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Steve Collier, Director