



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

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 17
AGENDA DATE: Thu 02/16/2006
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SUBJECT: Authorize execution of a contract with SKID CAR SYSTEM, INC., Las Vegas, NV, for the purchase of a controlled-skid frame for the Emergency Medical Services Department in an amount not to exceed \$114,000.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Approved Capital Budget of the Emergency Medical Services Department.

FISCAL NOTE: A fiscal note is attached.

REQUESTING Purchasing **DIRECTOR'S**
DEPARTMENT: for Emergency Medical **AUTHORIZATION:** Vickie Schubert
Services;

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Mick Osborne, Senior Buyer/974-2995

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PURCHASING: Sole source.

MBE / WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9 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 purchase.

This contract will provide a skid frame system for use on Emergency Medical Services ambulances to train drivers. A skid frame is a wheeled carriage system that is placed below an ambulance chassis to simulate poor weather and high speed driving conditions in a controlled manner. Conditions can be simulated in real time with the use of this apparatus. The skid frame system will be used with ambulances in a controlled practice area, with little risk to the occupants of the vehicle. An instructor can vary the grip of the vehicle's tires with the road surface, thereby increasing or decreasing skid.

The skid frame system will be a valuable tool to train both new paramedics entering Austin-Travis County EMS (ATCEMS) as well as for refresher training for existing personnel. Currently, EMS has basic driver training at the Burger Center and does not include bad road conditions or skidding situations. In the past, personnel had to travel to College Station where there is an area that is available, for a fee, which can simulate wet road situations and allow drivers the ability to practice driving in such an environment. The acquisition of the skid frame will eliminate the need for ATCEMS personnel to travel for this type of training and will give personnel a level of training that has been previously unavailable.

Skid Car System, Inc. has the exclusive rights for the importation, sale, and distribution of the skid frame system, which is manufactured and patented by Cedergrens, located in Klintehamn, Sweden. No other manufacturer makes a controlled-skid frame that mounts to a car or truck chassis.



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