

AGENDA



Thursday, April 29, 2010

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 39**

Subject: Authorize award and execution of two contracts through the Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments Cooperative Purchasing Program (HGAC) with CALDWELL COUNTRY CHEVROLET, Caldwell, TX, for the purchase of 16 light-duty vehicles in an amount not to exceed \$454,767, and DALLAS DODGE, Dallas, TX, for the purchase of three light-duty vehicles in an amount not to exceed \$58,478.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$413,486 is included in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Vehicle Acquisition Fund. Funding in the amount of \$99,759 is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

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

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9D of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). This contract is a Cooperative Purchase; therefore, it is exempted under Chapter 791 of the Texas Local Government Code and no goals were established for this solicitation.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission.

This contract is for the purchase of six new and 13 replacement light-duty vehicles to be distributed among the Austin Energy, Austin Police Department, Emergency Medical Services Department, and Financial and Administrative Services Department.

The Austin Climate Protection 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 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 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.

Included in this purchase are the following light duty vehicles:

AUSTIN ENERGY:

- 1 Chevrolet Tahoe, 4x2, E85 Flex Fuel – Replacement (Caldwell Country Chevrolet)
- 2 Chevrolet Tahoe, 4x4, E85 Flex Fuel – Replacements (Caldwell Country Chevrolet)

AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT:

- 1 Dodge Charger, E85 Flex Fuel – Replacement (Dallas Dodge)
- 3 Chevrolet Tahoe, 4x2, E85 Flex Fuel – Replacements (Caldwell Country Chevrolet)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

- 10 Chevrolet Tahoe, 4x2, E85 Flex Fuel – 6 new, 4 Replacements (Caldwell Country Chevrolet)

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

- 2 Dodge Caravan, E85 Flex Fuel – Replacements (Dallas Dodge)

Caldwell Country Chevrolet and Dallas Dodge are contracted through HGAC to supply various types of light-duty vehicles statewide as a result of a competitive bidding process. Utilizing HGAC contracts provides for volume discount pricing as well as the earliest opportunity to get the City's vehicles on order.