



Memorandum

Austin Police Department Chief's Office

To: Mayor and Council Members
Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Michael McDonald, Assistant City Manager

From: Art Acevedo, Chief of Police

Date: May 11, 2010

Subject: Ratification of Repairs to Main Gear Box/Exchange for Police Helicopter

The Austin Police Department's (APD) 2001 American Eurocopter EC 120b helicopter main gearbox (MGB), or transmission, has a service life limit (SLL) established by the Federal Aviation Administration and must be overhauled prior to 3400 hours. This normal overhaul process was estimated to take between 90-180 days, which would disrupt/ground the operations of the Air Support Unit of APD.

Instead, a quote was requested and accepted for a zero turn around time program quote for the exchange of the MGB. This exchange process allows the vendor to take one of its overhauled units to be installed in the APD helicopter while repairs are performed on the City MGB. This is the most reasonable option in avoiding extended periods of downtime and having public services uninterrupted. With this type of exchange program, the City agrees to have its gearbox overhauled to current standards paying the total cost for the work performed and parts used. The original quote of \$28,325 only covered the base cost associated with the overhaul of the MGB and assumed that no parts needed to be replaced.

APD is requesting council ratification of the final cost of repairs in the amount of \$73,094.90. The APD Air Support unit is currently working with APD purchasing as well as central purchasing to initiate a parts and exchange contract to alleviate occurrences of this type in the future. The contract will be based upon current average overhaul costs of the affected components, including this gearbox.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Art Acevedo
Chief of Police