



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1819, **Agenda Item #:** 25.

4/23/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a cooperative contract with FarrWest Environmental Supply, Inc., to purchase handheld raman chemical identifiers, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$174,800.

(Note: This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9D Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the goods required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Purchasing Office.

Client Department(s)

Austin Fire Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Homeland Security Grant Program budget of the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Purchasing Language:

The Purchasing Office has determined this contractor best meets the needs of the department to provide the goods required at the best value for the City.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>> or to Bridney Stewart, at 512-974-3127 or Bridney.Stewart@Austintexas.gov <<mailto:Bridney.Stewart@Austintexas.gov>>.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract will provide the Austin Fire Department (AFD) with a supply of handheld raman chemical identifier devices used for the identification of unknown organic chemicals in hazardous materials responses. These devices are deployed on every rescue as a first line tool in identifying unknown chemicals or chemical threat materials during a white powder, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive related incident.

The handheld raman chemical identifier devices are available through the Houston-Galveston Area Council cooperative, which establishes competitively bid contracts that can be utilized by the State and other government agencies through a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements save taxpayer dollars by leveraging the State's volume-buying power to drive down costs on hundreds of contracts through a streamlined cooperative purchasing program.

The purchase of handheld raman chemical identifier devices will replace outdated technology currently utilized by the AFD and improve the ability of AFD personnel to respond to and mitigate hundreds of hazardous

conditions and materials incidents annually.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety; Government that Works for All.