



## Recommendation for Action

**File #: 22-2708, Agenda Item #: 39.**

9/1/2022

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with FTS Forest Technology Systems LTD to provide remote automatic weather stations, for a term of five years in an amount not to exceed \$125,865.

(Note: Sole source contracts are exempt from the City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

### **Lead Department**

Financial Services Department.

### **Client Department(s)**

Austin Fire Department.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$101,300 is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget of the Austin Fire Department. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

### **Purchasing Language:**

Sole Source.

### **For More Information:**

Inquiries should be directed to Bartley Tyler, at 512-974-2023 or [Bartley.Tyler@austintexas.gov](mailto:Bartley.Tyler@austintexas.gov) or [<mailto:Bartley.Tyler@austintexas.gov>](mailto:Bartley.Tyler@austintexas.gov).

### **Additional Backup Information:**

Positioning remote automatic weather stations (RAWS) around the city will provide hourly updates of weather conditions in specific locations. Conditions can vary greatly from one location to another at any given time. This network of stations will enhance safety for first responders to hazmat incidents, wildfires, and prescribed burning. RAWS will be used for planning purposes and emergency response, as well as giving the National Weather Service access to data for general forecasting and observations which will assist with public safety. The portable units can be set up at various locations of incidents, as well as at prescribed burns. RAWS will provide on demand data as well as auto alerts with programmable parameters. This system can be configured to broadcast directly to the on-scene radios and can be set up by one person in about 15 minutes.

This is a new contract. The requested authorization amount for this contract was determined using departmental estimates to purchase needed remote automatic weather stations and perform preventive maintenance on them.

There are no other manufacturers or distributors in the United States with a product that will interface with the

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national system.

If the City is unable to secure this purchase wildfire safety could be compromised. These stations will help identify discrepancies and adjust resources and preparations accordingly.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Health and Environment, Safety.