



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

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 42
AGENDA DATE: Thu 07/28/2005
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SUBJECT: Authorize execution of a contract with E.J. WARD, INC., San Antonio, TX, for a radio frequency fueling system in an amount not to exceed \$194,710.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Amended Capital Budget of the Financial and Administrative Services Department, Fleet Fund.

FISCAL NOTE: A fiscal note is attached.

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| REQUESTING | Purchasing | DIRECTOR'S |
| DEPARTMENT: | for Financial and Administrative Services - Fleet Services; | AUTHORIZATION: <u>Vickie Schubert</u> |

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Sydney Ceder, Buyer II/974-2035

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 solicitation.

The City of Austin currently owns and operates forty strategically located fueling sites throughout the City and each one uses the E.J. Ward automated fueling system. The fueling sites are located at service centers, fire stations, EMS stations, Parks and Recreation sites, Austin Water Utility sites, etc. Currently, all vehicles and equipment units are required to have a mag-strip fuel card and employees must manually enter data (e.g.: pump number, odometer, etc.) when using the automated fuel system. The major weakness in the current system is as follows:

- Cards misplaced/lost/used on the wrong vehicle
- Mileage is incorrectly entered into the system (human factor) which may affect management reports and preventive maintenance schedules.
- Ability of driver to fill up any vehicle (city or personal) once fuel pump is activated.

Fleet Services is upgrading sites primarily used by Solid Waste Services and the Police Department to RF/CANceiver technology. (RF [Radio Frequency] is the method by which information will be transmitted. CANceiver technology is used in a patented device that allows information from a vehicle to be directly acquired from the on-board computer.)

The new system eliminates the human factor. The unit number (links the department, driver, funding line etc.) and mileage will be captured and activation of fuel will occur only when the nozzle is placed in the vehicle equipped with this technology programmed for City vehicles only. This would significantly reduce the weaknesses outlined.



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This purchase will provide for all of the fueling system components, turnkey installation services, training, and spare parts. This feature will allow the City of Austin to operate these terminals using our in-house network through the use of the TCPIP/network connectivity, which will eliminate the cost of SWB telephone lines currently needed on the existing system.

The intention is to eventually phase in all fueling sites (approximately 40) over the next 3 years, however, this first phase will be limited to 3 strategic locations to provide citywide access. Service Center 5 (adjacent to police station, central location), Service center 13 (North location) and Todd Lane (South location).

E.J. Ward, Inc. is the manufacturer and sole distributor of parts and services for this system.