



DATE: February 2, 2021

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Approve the Sole Source Purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses, and Execute a Three-year Lease Agreement with L.N. Curtis and Sons in an Amount Not to Exceed \$1,116,606

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopts a resolution (Attachment II) authorizing the City Manager to approve the sole source purchase of self-contained breathing apparatuses, and enter into and execute a three-year lease agreement with L.N. Curtis and Sons in the amount not to exceed \$1,116,606.

SUMMARY

The Hayward Fire Department requires an early purchase of self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs) due to the current manufacturer's solvency and inability to secure replacement parts. Staff seeks Council authorization for the City Manager to: 1) authorize and approve the sole source purchase of SCBAs; and 2) enter into and execute a three-year lease agreement with L.N. Curtis and Sons for the amount of \$1,116,606. Capital improvement budget appropriations will be included as part of the Capital Improvement Program budget process.

BACKGROUND

The SCBA is a vital piece of emergency equipment that allows the City's firefighters to enter dangerous atmospheres to affect rescues, combat fires, and mitigate other hazardous conditions while providing for a protected breathing environment through masks and air tanks. HFD currently uses Avon Deltair (Avon), an experimental product purchased in October 2015.

In the four years since that purchase, HFD sent 170 SCBA packs and 80 face mask units in for repair, averaging five pieces of equipment per month. More than half of the repairs are due to faulty Heads Up Display (HUD) cables that alert firefighters of the amount of air left in their tank. Avon has failed to re-engineer this critical piece of the working apparatus, thus increasing risk to sworn staff. Additionally, Avon ceased to continue manufacturing SCBA packs, replacement parts, and their last model failed to meet National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) standards.

DISCUSSION

Staff identified a new reliable and reputable SCBA for replacement, which is distributed by the Department's largest and most reliable vendor, L. N. Curtis and Sons. The new packs are equipped with modern technology that increases the safety to sworn staff, improves rescue operations, and allows cross-departmental collaboration. The newly identified MSA brand SCBAs have the following upgrades that are not available on the current SCBAs:

1. New inhalation and exhalation valves, which eliminate cross-contamination with multiple users;
2. Thermal imaging cameras on each SCBA PASS device for use in the event that a firefighter needs to find their way out of a smoke-filled building or quickly find a victim;
3. Bluetooth connecting each SCBA directly to each firefighter's radio, providing clear communication as opposed to traditional voice amplification; and
4. All MSA packs meet the new NFPA standards utilizing a universal connection for all Buddy Breathing devices, allowing HFD full interoperability capabilities. Alameda County fire agencies have seamless Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) operations and a standby rescue team deployed when firefighters are missing and unaccounted for. In the event RIC is deployed, all SCBAs would be compatible.

SCBA manufacturers must meet rigorous NFPA, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and UL standards. The department has chosen the MSA brand, a reputable SCBA that meets all industry standards and has a true 15-year life.

Staff recommends a sole source justification for an existing vendor, L.N. Curtis and Sons. The established relationship between HFD and L.N. Curtis and Sons led the City to negotiate a unique three-year lease agreement, allowing the City additional time to pay down this unexpected, early purchase. HFD seeks authorization to enter into the three-year lease agreement for three payments in the amount of \$372,202 starting March 2021 and ending February 2023.

Staff recommends an amendment to the Breathing Apparatus CIP Project number (07466) to reflect the obligation of the proposed three-year lease agreement in an amount not to exceed \$1,116,606. Appropriations for lease payments will be included as part of the budget process for each subsequent fiscal year.

STRATEGIC ROADMAP

This agenda item is a routine operational item and does not relate to any of the six priorities outlined in the Council's Strategic Roadmap.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

There is no direct economic impact related to this operational purchase.

FISCAL IMPACT

The three-year lease agreement with L.N. Curtis and Sons shall not exceed \$1,116,606. Appropriations for each lease payment will be included as part of the annual CIP process for each subsequent fiscal year. There are sufficient funds in the FY 2021-2030 adopted CIP to cover the first lease payment of the three-year lease agreement. Additional lease payments under the three-year lease agreement will be included as part of the budget process for each subsequent fiscal year.

NEXT STEPS

Once approved, staff will purchase the new SCBAs, implement training and outfit HFD with new and reliable equipment.

Prepared by: Shanalee Gallagher, Management Analyst
Nicole Gonzales, Deputy Director of Finance

Recommended by: Garrett Contreras, Fire Chief

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. McAdoo', is written over a horizontal line.

Kelly McAdoo, City Manager