



Agenda Action Form Overview

Approval of Contract with Stryker for the purchase of eleven (11) Power-LOAD units in the amount of \$364,334.85, forty-five (45) Stair chairs in the amount of \$319,707.45, and seven (7) LUCAS devices in the amount of \$181,231.27 for a total purchase price of \$865,273.57.

Background/Justification

The Board is requested to approve a contract with Stryker for the purchase of eleven (11) Power-LOAD units, forty-five (45) Stair chairs, and seven (7) LUCAS devices. The Office of Emergency Services (OES) will utilize existing capital budget funds for EMS equipment replacement in the amount of \$865,273.57 utilizing the SAVVIK Cooperative Agreement Consortium.

In 2021, the Office of Emergency Services – Emergency Medical Services (OES-EMS) undertook a major system-wide modernization initiative by acquiring and deploying Stryker stretchers and Power-LOAD systems across its entire ambulance fleet. This upgrade was driven by a commitment to improving both patient safety and provider well-being. The Power-LOAD system automates the lifting and loading of patients into ambulances, significantly reducing the risk of back injuries and other musculoskeletal strain for EMS personnel. It also enhances patient safety by minimizing the risk of drops or mishandling during transport. As part of this operational standardization, all new ambulances are now required to be equipped with Power-LOAD units to ensure seamless integration with the Stryker stretchers. With the scheduled delivery of eleven (11) new ambulances in the spring of 2026, OES-EMS must procure an additional eleven (11) Power-LOAD systems to ensure these vehicles are fully mission-ready upon arrival and consistent with the department's established safety protocols.

For the past decade, OES-EMS has utilized Ferno stair chairs to assist with patient movement in environments where traditional stretchers are impractical—such as multi-story buildings, narrow hallways, or tight stairwells. These stair chairs have been essential tools for safely transporting patients in challenging conditions. However, after ten (10) years of continuous use, the current inventory of stair chairs has reached the end of its serviceable life. Many units are showing signs of wear that cannot be repaired. Recognizing the importance of reliable equipment in high-risk scenarios, OES-EMS conducted a comprehensive review of available stair chair models. Based on this evaluation, the department has selected Stryker stair chairs as the optimal replacement. These chairs offer advanced safety features such as improved restraint systems, enhanced maneuverability, and ergonomic design, which collectively support safer and more efficient patient handling in the field.

Since their introduction into the OES-EMS system eight (8) years ago, LUCAS mechanical CPR devices have played a vital role in delivering consistent, high-quality chest compressions during cardiac arrest events. These devices allow EMS providers to maintain uninterrupted compressions while freeing up personnel to perform other critical interventions during resuscitation efforts. The use of mechanical CPR has been shown to improve outcomes by ensuring guideline-compliant compression depth and rate, even during transport. However, seven (7) of the department's current LUCAS devices have now reached the end of their operational



life and are no longer supported by the manufacturer, meaning they cannot be serviced or repaired. To maintain the department's high standard of care and ensure compliance with current clinical guidelines, these aging devices must be replaced with updated models that reflect the latest advancements in resuscitation technology and reliability.

To support the long-term performance and safety of these critical assets, each of the proposed equipment purchases, including the Stryker Power-LOAD systems, Stryker stair chairs, and LUCAS mechanical CPR devices, will include comprehensive preventative maintenance and repair service agreements. These plans are essential for minimizing equipment downtime, extending the operational lifespan of each unit, and ensuring they remain in optimal working condition. Regular inspections, timely repairs, and proactive replacement of worn components will help prevent unexpected failures in the field, thereby supporting uninterrupted emergency response operations and safeguarding both patient and provider safety.

Policy Impact

The OES Emergency Medical Services division is seeking approval from the Board of County Commissioners requesting the BOCC to authorize the County Manager to enter contract with Stryker to spend \$865,273.57 of capital budget funds for EMS equipment replacement for the purchase of eleven (11) Power-LOAD units in the amount of \$ \$364,334.85, forty-five (45) Stair chairs in the amount of \$319,707.45, and seven (7) LUCAS devices in the amount of \$181,231.27 for a total purchase price of \$865,273.57.

Procurement Background

OES is utilizing the SAVVIK Cooperative Agreement Consortium pricing for OES-EMS Power-LOADs, Stair chairs, and LUCAS devices. G.S. 143-129(e) allows local governments to be exempted from the competitive bidding requirements and purchase furnishings/equipment through group purchasing programs.

Type of purchase

- ☒ Goods
- ☐ Services
- ☐ Construction Work

Did this request for purchase go through a bid process? Yes ☐ No ☒

Goods: Bids required if $\geq \$30,000$, BOCC approval if $\geq \$90,000$

Services: Bids required if $\geq \$30,000$, BOCC approval if $> \$40,000$

Construction/Repair work: Bids required if $\geq \$30,000$, BOCC approval if $\geq \$500,000$

If yes, attach a copy of bid tab and the minority and women business enterprise (MWBE) compliance review form provided by the Purchasing Division.

If no, why?



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Agenda Action Form Supplemental Document – Contract Approval

- ☐ Sole source exemption
- ☒ Cooperative purchasing program exemption
- ☐ State and federal contract exemption
- ☐ Contract is an amendment to an existing contract
- ☐ Other (please explain)

If exempted from bidding, has this request been reviewed and approved by the Purchasing Division in the agenda Legistar system? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, why?

Fiscal Impact

OES has budgeted for this program within capital budget funds for EMS equipment replacement. There is no requirement for matching funds from the County.

Recommendation

The County Manager recommends that the BOCC approve the contract with Stryker in the amount of \$865,273.57 and authorize the County Manager to sign and execute all contract documents for the purchase of eleven (11) Power-LOAD units, forty-five (45) Stair chairs, and seven (7) LUCAS devices.