



Agenda Action Form Overview

Request to Award Contract for Sole Source Purchase of Firefighter Protective Clothing

Background/Justification

The Board is requested to provide approval for sole source exemption for the purchase of 52 sets of structural fire-fighting protective clothing in the amount of \$117,290 from Stevens Fire Equipment, Inc. This sole source request is for the compatibility and standardization of the existing Firefighter Protective Clothing that was originally purchased by Durham County Fire Rescue (DCFR). The purchase of this gear is consistent with the recommendations found in the National Fire Protection (NFPA) 1500 Safety, Health, and Wellness Program. NFPA 1500 states "...the fire department should consider providing each member with two complete sets of structural fire-fighting protective clothing that meets the requirements of NFPA 1971 (Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting) whenever possible". It is the identical gear that is currently issued to DCFR firefighters.

The purpose of purchasing the 52 sets of gear is to ensure that each firefighter has a second set of gear immediately available to them should the first set of gear become contaminated during firefighting or hazardous materials operations. The second set of gear can be immediately used while the contaminated gear is cleaned, decontaminated, and dried. The practice of providing two (2) sets of gear to firefighters mirrors that of the City of Durham Fire Department.

Policy Impact

There is no anticipated policy impact.

Procurement Background

The same gear was previously purchased from Stevens Fire & Equipment approximately three years ago. Only one set of gear for each employee was purchased at that time. This agenda item has been reviewed by the Purchasing Division for compliance with the request for sole source exemption. A memo from the manufacturer, Viking Life-Saving Equipment (America), Inc. stating that Stevens Fire Equipment, Inc. is the sole source vendor to sell their fire protection gear and an email from Purchasing approving the sole source exemption are attached.

Type of purchase

- ☒ Goods
- ☐ Services
- ☐ Architect, Engineer or Surveyor Services
- ☐ Construction and Repair

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



Durham County Government
Agenda Action Form Supplemental Document – Contract Approval

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?

- ☒ Sole source exemption (documentation included)
- ☐ 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

The DCFR Service District will be the funding source for the purchase of the gear in the amount of \$117,290. Funds are currently allocated in the FY 17/18 DCFR budget.

Recommendation

The County Manager recommends that the Board approve the sole source exemption and authorize the County Manager to enter into a contract for the purchase of 52 sets of structural fire-fighting protective clothing from Stevens Fire Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$117,290.