

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 08/08/23

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 23-0644

LOG NAME: 21SOLE SOURCE PUMP TESTING SYSTEM

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Execution of a One-Time Sole Source Purchase Agreement with Weis Fire & Safety Equipment, LLC for a Pump Testing System in an Amount Up to \$170,000.00 for the Property Management Department

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council authorize execution of a one-time sole source purchase agreement with Weis Fire & Safety Equipment, LLC for a pump testing system in an amount up to \$170,000.00 for the Property Management Department.

DISCUSSION:

The Fleet Division of the Property Management Department is requesting to purchase a pump testing system for immediate on-site pump testing for diagnosis of water pump deficiencies and repair of a fire apparatus. The estimated cost of the unit is \$170,000.00. Currently the Fleet Division is subcontracting fire apparatus units to a third party for water pump testing. The current time frame for completion on average is four days for the required testing. In addition, it requires two Fleet staff members to drop off and pick up each unit from the vendor, which results in increased labor and fuel costs for the Fire Department. The average cost of each pump test paid to the subcontractor is \$372.00 and the labor cost incurred by the Fire Department is \$200.00 for each trip. On average, a total of sixteen units are sent to the subcontractor on an annual basis. However, if the initial pump test fails the unit must be returned to the fleet service center for additional repairs and sent back to the subcontractor for re-testing.

The addition of the pump testing system for Fire will allow the Fleet Division to conduct immediate pump testing at the James Avenue Service Center. This will allow the Fire Department to have units back in service within one day versus the four-day time frame required for the sub-contracted vendor which will result in increased Fleet availability. The Fire Department will be billed at a competitive rate for the pump testing. There are approximately 124 units within the Fire Department and this addition will allow the Fleet Division to ensure all units are available in a more efficient capacity. In addition to pump testing related to a major component repair, all Fire apparatus units (approximately 124) require an annual water pump certification testing which will continue to be done by the sub-contractor. Once the system is in place the Fleet Division will work closely with the Fire Department to analyze and develop annual certification pump testing to be done internally to increase Fleet availability.

The Draft Commander 3000® is a mobile pump testing unit that helps Fire Departments comply with National Fire Protection Association Standards. This will make test pits obsolete by using clean, clear water that is recycled during pump testing, instead of dirty water from an open water source that could harm the apparatus pump. Pump test apparatus up to 4500 gallons per minute test two trucks simultaneously. This unit is self-contained and mobile so pump testing can be done anywhere an apparatus is without setting up a water reservoir to pump from.

Sole Source - This procurement is exempt from the competitive bidding requirements as provided for under Section 252.022(7) of the Texas Local Government Code since Weis Fire & Safety Equipment, LLC is the documented sole source manufacturer of the products that are covered by U.S. Patent Nos. 7,827,860 and 10,434,346, which are owned by Weis Fire & Safety Equipment, LLC. The DRAFT COMMANDER® trademark and WEIS FIRE EQUIPMENT® trademark are also owned by Weis Fire & Safety Equipment, LLC.

Funding – Funding is budgeted in the Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund for the purpose of funding the Fire Department's Vehicles project, as appropriated. Since only the Fire Department will benefit from the addition of the Fire pump testing system, the Property Management Department will be funding this addition to the Fleet by using savings from prior year purchases of vehicles and equipment for General Fund departments budgeted in the Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund (VERF). The Fleet Division of the Property Management Department will manage the pump testing system; therefore, this unit will be an addition to Property Management's Fleet. All operating costs associated with the pump testing system for the Fire Department will be funded by the Fleet and Equipment Services Fund.

Funding is budgeted in the Vehicle and Equip Replacement Fund for the purpose of funding the Fire Dept Vehicle project, as appropriated.

AGREEMENT TERMS: Upon City Council approval, this agreement shall begin upon execution and shall expire upon delivery of the pump testing unit.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE ORDER - An administrative change order or increase may be made by the City Manager up to the amount allowed by relevant law and the Fort Worth City Code and does not require specific City Council approval as long as sufficient funds have been appropriated.

DVIN: A waiver of the goal for Business Equity subcontracting requirements was requested, and approved by the DVIN, in accordance with the applicable Ordinance, because the waiver request is based on the sole source information provided.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are available in in the current Capital budget, as previously appropriated, in the Vehicle and Equip Replacement Fund for the Fire Dept Vehicle project to support the approval of the above recommendation and award of the contract. Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Property Management Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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