



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** December 17, 2021

**To:** Valerie Washington, Assistant City Manager

**From:** Jim Davis, Fire Chief

**CC:** Mark Rauscher, Assistant Fire Director

**Subject:** Funding for Bomb Squad Response Trailer

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The Fire Department Bomb Squad continues to revise their deployment model following the Boston Marathon bombing (2013) and Austin, TX bombing (2018) incidents to a more agile profile that can also accommodate multiple incident scenes. Initially, the bomb response profile consisted of a primary large vehicle, a 2008 Spartan SVI Heavy Rescue Truck (equivalent in size to a standard fire engine), and a secondary back-up response trailer (2005 Wells Cargo). The revised deployment model consists of carrying more equipment on rapid response trucks and supplementing with the large equipment when needed. Technology improvements such as digital x-rays and smaller robots provide the ability to handle approximately 85% of the bomb incidents received with our rapid response vehicles (standard trucks). Because of its size, and the need for a second driver to deliver the Spartan vehicle to the incident scene, the decision was made to replace the Spartan vehicle and store the remaining large equipment into trailers that can be pulled to the scene or delivered to special events (TMS etc). The new deployment model consists of a primary response by bomb technicians in rapid response vehicles supplemented by two response trailers for larger or geographically distinct incidents. The bomb squad already maintains one back-up response trailer and intends to purchase the second trailer with UASI funds as a replacement to the 2008 Spartan, which was purchased with UASI 2008 funds. The estimated cost for the new trailer is \$90,000.



After discussing this plan with our Fleet personnel, we learned that the fire department needed a larger vehicle to provide bunker gear cleaning equipment to an incident scene as part of the department's larger cancer prevention initiative. The Spartan truck was identified as a suitable vehicle for this endeavor. However, repurposing the Spartan vehicle to a gear cleaning vehicle means it remain in the fire department fleet and the purchase of a new bomb response trailer would be an addition to the fleet needing specific approval. The bomb squad believes having two trailers capable of delivering larger robots and other equipment is a necessity in case incidents are geographically dispersed or one trailer is out of service for repairs.

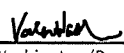
Fire therefore requests your approval to pursue this funding and procurement plan for a new bomb response trailer while allowing the 2008 Spartan SVI vehicle to remain in the fire department fleet and be used for the purpose of gear cleaning. Additionally, the fire department understands that the addition of the trailer to the fleet is a "one-time" increase and not eligible for automatic replacement similar to the department's fire engine and ladder trucks.

Recommended for Approval:   
Jim Davis (Dec 29, 2021 13:27 CST)

Jim Davis, Fire Chief

Recommended for Approval:   
Chris Means (Dec 29, 2021 13:55 CST)

Chris Means, Assistant PMD Director

Approved:   
Valerie Washington (Dec 30, 2021 12:17 CST)

Valerie Washington, Assistant City Manager



**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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