

Council Meeting of  
June 19, 2007

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the Torrance City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

**Members of the Council:**

**SUBJECT: Fire Department - Council Authorization for Sole-Source Purchase of  
Globe MILLENIA GXTREME Turnout Coats and Pants. Expenditure:  
\$49,249.96 (includes sales tax)**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Fire Chief recommends that the City Council authorize a purchase order be issued to L. N. Curtis & Sons, Oakland, California, in the amount of \$49,249.96 for the sole-source purchase of Globe MILLENIA GXTREME turnout coats and pants.

**Funding**

Funding is available in the Fire Department FY2006-07 Operating Budget.

**BACKGROUND/ ANALYSIS**

NFPA 1500, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Programs, requires that firefighters engaged in structural firefighting be provided with and wear a protective ensemble, which consists of a protective coat, protective trousers, protective hood, helmet, SCBA, gloves, and footwear. The clothing protects the firefighter from heat by providing an outer shell that is highly resistant to ignition from flame contact or radiant heat and by providing insulation through the use of multiple layers of nonflammable insulation material and air between the outer shell and the firefighter's skin. The 2008 edition of NFPA 1851, Selection, Care and Maintenance of Structural Firefighting Protective Ensembles, will be requiring that Personal Protective equipment be limited to a 10 year lifespan from date of manufacture. This new standard is scheduled to go into effect this year. Many of the department's turnouts are 15 years old or older.

The Torrance Fire Department (TFD) provides each firefighter with two sets of turnout gear, which allows them to perform their job safely and effectively. The coats

(32 each) and pants (10 pairs) being requested are for normal replacement of worn out turnouts.

L. N. Curtis & Sons, Oakland, CA, is the exclusive dealer in California representing Globe Firefighters Suits and the only vendor, from which we can purchase (and have always purchased) the Globe turnouts in California. It takes two to three months to custom manufacture this vital protective clothing per TFD specifications on file with L.N. Curtis & Sons.

It is the opinion of staff that the purchase of the Globe MILLENIA GXTREME turnout coats and pants falls within the Sole-Source Purchase Exception of TMC § 22.3.17 (b) that states:

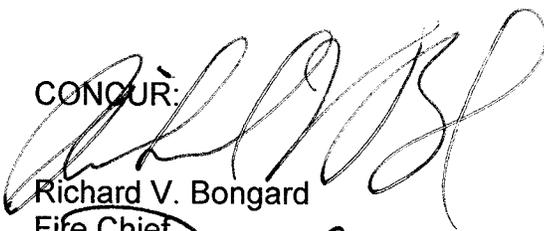
“For purposes of this Section, “sole-source purchases” means those purchases where it would be undesirable or impossible for the City to advertise for bids for particular work or for patented items, or experimental or unique services or products, or where competitive purchases would be unavailable or would not prove advantageous for the City. No sole-source purchases may be made where to do so would show favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud or corruption, or result in the waste of public funds, but may be used only to obtain the best economic result for the public.”

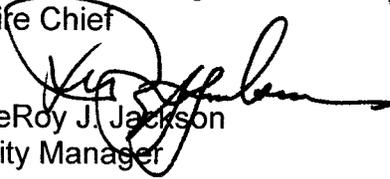
Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD V. BONGARD  
Fire Chief

  
By Neli Mileva  
Administrative Analyst

CONCUR:

  
Richard V. Bongard  
Fire Chief

  
LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager