

Council Meeting of
June 26, 2007

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: General Services/Fire Department – Approve Purchase Order for one (1) 2008 Ford F450 Supercab and Chassis for new Fire Paramedic Rescue Truck

Expenditure: \$36,243.44 (includes sales tax and tire fees)

RECOMMENDATION

The General Services Director and Fire Chief recommend that the City Council authorize award of a purchase order to Power Ford of Torrance, California, in the amount of \$36,243.44 including sales tax and applicable tire fees, to furnish one (1) 2008 Ford F450 Supercab and Chassis. This cab and chassis will be used to build an additional Fire Rescue Paramedic Truck for Torrance Fire Department.

Funding

Funding for this purchase is available in FEAP # 513, Addition of Fifth (5th) Fire Paramedic Rescue Unit.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

At the May 22, 2007 City Council Meeting (item 12B), Council approved the addition of a 5th Fire Paramedic Rescue unit for the Torrance Fire Department (TFD), including necessary staffing and acquisition of additional required equipment.

Considering the City's experiences with the last two purchases of Paramedic Rescue Trucks, staff recognized that acquiring this specialty vehicle will involve considerable lead time. A cab and chassis must be delivered to the truck body manufacturer *before* the truck body manufacturer will even begin building the Paramedic truck body. After that, the build time for this specialty truck body is six to eight months. Staff have been advised that lead time for delivery of a new 2008 model-year Ford cab and chassis is approximately 120 days after the order is placed.

Staff will return to Council in the near future for separate authorization of the truck body purchase and installation.

As has been past practice with the last several purchases of these specialty vehicles, staff has specified the Ford brand cab and chassis. This is in keeping with staff's desire to "standardize" the Paramedic vehicle fleet. Ford's medium and heavy-duty product line has proven very durable and reliable in emergency applications throughout the United States.

Both TFD and Fleet Services staff believe that standardization of vehicle brand (Ford) enhances long-term reliability and overall fleet readiness, which are very critical factors when it comes to operating a fleet of emergency vehicles. The City has historically standardized with respect to purchase and outfitting of Police patrol cars as well (e.g., Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor).

Standardization benefits maintenance operations by providing for vehicles that are mirror-images of one another, from the chassis all the way down to the specialty equipment and electronics systems installed by the City after the vehicle is purchased. Being able to install and maintain only one type of wiring harness, support bracket, or other specialty item promotes increased efficiency. Vehicles having identical maintenance characteristics also lower long-term costs by increasing the proficiency of Mechanics through repeated exposure to identical vehicle systems. Repair part inventories are also reduced through avoidance of a "mixed" fleet.

Also, in accordance with the City's goal of reducing vehicle emissions wherever possible, staff has considered the viability of acquiring this vehicle in an alternative fuel version, versus the standard diesel engine that is offered. However, due to the demanding duty requirements of this type of vehicle, coupled with the fact that CARB and AQMD exempt Public Safety vehicles from their diesel emissions regulations, staff feels that use of alternative fuels in this application are impractical at this time.

Considering the lead time required to obtain this vehicle, coupled with the importance of placing this unit into service as soon as possible, staff recommends that this purchase be made in accordance with provisions in the City's Municipal Code allowing "Special Opportunity Purchases" in cases where time is of the essence.

Staff solicited informal quotations from local vendors instead of the more formal "bid" process that usually takes 3-4 weeks. From the quotations, staff was able to ascertain that the pricing obtained is in fact competitive.

Quotes are as follows:

VENDOR	TOTAL BID PRICE
Power Ford, Torrance, CA *	\$36,243.44 (\$35,867.89 with 1% Sales tax consideration for Torrance-based vendors)
South Bay Ford, Hawthorne, CA	\$36,410.23
Burch Ford, La Habra, CA	\$36,481.68

* Lowest responsible quote

For reasons as set forth above, staff recommends that this purchase be made from Power Ford of Torrance, in accordance with;

SECTION 22.3.18. of the Torrance Municipal Code; EXCEPTION; SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY PURCHASES which states:

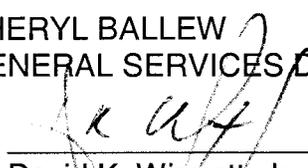
“Special opportunity purchases may be made by the City Manager where:

a) The City Council finds that a proposed purchase that is subject to this Article is either below the current market price and will result in a significant cost savings to the City, or that the proposed purchase is not more than the current market price, and that significant time will be saved in delivery or installation of the equipment by such a purchase; and

b) The City has a current need for the item or items of property to be purchased.”

Respectfully Submitted,

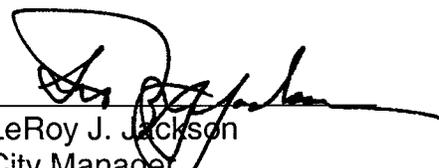
SHERYL BALLEW
GENERAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

By 
David K. Winnett, Jr.
Fleet Services Manager

CONCUR:


Sheryl Ballew
General Services Director


Rick Bongard
Fire Chief


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

