

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

Members of the City Council:

**SUBJECT: Communications and Information Technology – Approve purchase of mobile computers for the Fire Department’s front-line vehicles.
Expenditure: \$90,686.29**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Information Technology Director that City Council approve the purchase of nineteen (19) Panasonic toughbook mobile computers (18 replacements and 1 new computer with accessories) from CDW Government, Inc. in the amount of \$90,686.29.

Funding

Funding is available from the Computer Replacement Fund, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Enterprise Fund, and FEAP 513-Fire Paramedic Rescue Unit Project.

BACKGROUND

The Fire Department completed work with a local Torrance firm, Radio Satellite Integrators (RSI), to develop a mobile data software program called Site Preplan On-board Technology (SPOT). The SPOT software was implemented in February 2004 and expanded to all front-line vehicles in August 2004.

The SPOT software allows Fire vehicles to send and receive information about emergency calls on mobile computers located inside their vehicles. When a Fire vehicle such as a fire engine or rescue unit is assigned to a call, the address information is sent via radio channel to the mobile computer in the vehicle. The precise location of the call is displayed on a map on the computer. Vital information relating to the address such as water connections, hazardous materials locations, hydrants, and building plot plans, are all made available through the SPOT software. Status buttons, when pressed by field personnel, notify the dispatch center of changes in status such as when they are responding, when they arrive on scene, and when they have completed their assignment. This automated status feature makes it unnecessary for field personnel to use the radio to

report status changes, thus keeping voice frequency available for higher priority communications and freeing the dispatcher from additional data entry.

The SPOT system also works in conjunction with Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL) installed in each vehicle, enabling SPOT to display the current position of the vehicle on the map as it approaches the emergency incident location. SPOT contains many map layers derived from the City's GIS (Geographical Information System) such as hydrants, streets, addresses, parcels, petroleum pipelines, building outlines, storm drains, and water valves. Any changes to the GIS layers or the SPOT database will be updated nightly to the mobile computers via wireless data connections in the stations.

ANALYSIS

The SPOT system with its automatic vehicle locators will integrate to the new Public Safety Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system from Spillman. Completion of this interface by the Spillman vendor and the SPOT vendor will determine the migration date for Fire to the Spillman CAD. The Fire, Police, and Communications and Information Technology departments are implementing the Fire dispatching functions in the Spillman CAD system in anticipation of the interface being completed by the April/May 2008 timeframe.

The Panasonic mobile computers will be compatible with future migrations to the Spillman mobile module for Fire by adding the Verizon cellular wireless communication cards. Spillman has indicated that the Fire mobile features are enhancements. The enhancements will be reviewed after completion of the enhancements to the Jail and Fire RMS modules. No dates have been provided for Fire mobile enhancement development.

The Finance Department's Purchasing division obtained three quotes for 18 replacement mobile computers. The quotes cover the same mobile computers and warranty with no additional associated support and/or training; therefore, vendor selection was based entirely on the lowest responsible quote.

Vendor	Price Quote
CDW, Inc.	\$82,928.16
GTSI Corp.	\$87,066.57
B&H Video Pro-Audio	\$80,179.80 (did not quote all items)

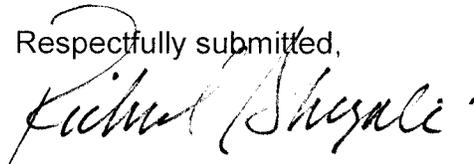
Subsequent to obtaining quotes, on December 11, 2007 (Item 12c) Council approved a new Fire Paramedic Rescue unit which requires one additional new mobile computer with mounting hardware and accessories. This additional mobile computer with mounts and accessories is included in the final purchase and is reflected in the higher purchase amounts as compared to the price quote.

The Torrance Municipal Code Section 22.3.19 creates a purchasing exception for computer and networking hardware and software purchases. The municipal code states:

“The provisions of this Article do not apply to contracts for the purchase of computer and networking hardware and software. The purchase of computer and networking hardware and software will be done pursuant to regulations and procedures established by the City Manager.”

It is recommended that CDW, Inc. be awarded the purchase order to provide the eighteen replacement mobile computers and one new mobile computer with mounting hardware and accessories necessary for implementation of the SPOT system in the new Fire paramedic rescue unit.

Respectfully submitted,

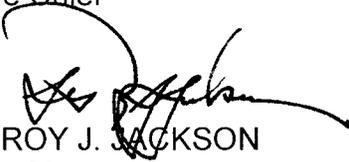


RICHARD SHIGAKI
Information Technology Director

CONCUR:



RICK BONGARD
Fire Chief



LeROY J. JACKSON
City Manager