



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

December 6, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

From: *PK* Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Debra Pryor, Fire Chief

Subject: Purchase Order: Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase order and any amendments with Scott Health and Safety to purchase Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment for the Berkeley Fire Department through a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant from August 18, 2005 through August 17, 2006 in an amount not to exceed \$320,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Total cost for the requested equipment and appropriate sales tax is approximately \$320,000. The FEMA grant award, which will be budgeted in Fund 692, is in the amount of \$214,884. The balance of \$105,116 will come from the General Fund as currently budgeted in the Fire Department FY 2006 budget. This General Fund allocation will constitute the City's match contribution as required by FEMA.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Berkeley Fire Department applied for and was awarded a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant in the amount of \$214,884 to fund a SCBA equipment acquisition program (Resolution No. 62,910-N.S.). This SCBA equipment acquisition program will enable Berkeley firefighters to suppress fires and operate in hazardous materials environments. It will also protect firefighters in the event of a Chemical, Biological, Radiation or Nuclear environment.

BACKGROUND

Due to fiscal constraints, the Fire Department is unable to replace and upgrade obsolete and substandard Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The Department's current SCBA inventory is approaching ten years of service life and does not meet the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) 2002 standard or National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1981 standard for requirements. The grant award enables the Department to replace and upgrade its current respiratory protection equipment.

The new NFPA 1981 standard for SCBA, 2002 Edition calls for all approved SCBAs to be equipped with a Rapid Intervention Crew Universal Airline Coupling. This allows the

connection of a secondary air source to rescue downed firefighters. The current model used by Berkeley Fire Department does not have this coupling device, placing the life of a firefighter in jeopardy. The current units in operation also do not meet the NIOSH 2002 Standards for SCBAs.

In addition, the SCBA units currently used by the Department do not provide adequate warning to the user when the bottle is approaching its end of service. The end of service indicator is identified with a low-air warning whistle and beeps, but these are often not loud enough. The new units come with several end-of-service indicators (audible, visual, and tactile). These indicators provide *maximum* notification in this life safety issue.

Replacing all obsolete/substandard SCBAs at once also provides compatibility and interoperability with adjacent jurisdictions responding to mutual aid requests, and reduces expenditures for ongoing repairs. The department's current SCBA packs and air cylinders are not interchangeable with other jurisdictions. A large-scale disaster in Berkeley will require mutual aid support. The FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams use Scott SCBA units. In order to make the regional mutual aid system work most effectively in a very high-density urban population area such as Berkeley, operational equipment must be interchangeable.

The Fire Department has been working closely with the General Services Division. We will utilize the General Services Administration (GSA) contract that satisfies the competitive bidding process. GSA contractor, Scott Health and Safety, is authorized to sell products to governmental agencies.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The award of this FEMA grant is a welcomed funding opportunity given the City's fiscal constraints. The current SCBAs have approached their end of service life and replacement is inevitable.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Debra Pryor, Fire Chief, (510) 981-5500

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

PURCHASE ORDER FOR SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Fire Department applied for and was awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters grant in the amount of \$214,884 to fund a Self Contained Breathing Apparatus equipment acquisition program (Resolution No. 62,910-N.S.); and

WHEREAS, the City's matching contribution will come from the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Fire Department has a need to replace its currently obsolete/substandard Self Contained Breathing Apparatus; and

WHEREAS, the new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus will enable the Department to improve firefighter safety, accountability and mutual aid compatibility, reduce expenditures for ongoing repairs, and meet the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and National Fire Protection Association standards; and

WHEREAS, Scott Health and Safety is a General Services Administration contractor authorized to sell products to governmental agencies which satisfied the competitive bidding process and funds will be budgeted in Fund 692-6402-420.70-41 and the General Fund 010-6402-420.70-41.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a purchase order, and any amendments, with Scott Health and Safety to purchase Self Contained Breathing Apparatus equipment in an amount not to exceed \$320,000.