



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date: September 15, 2011

To: John Szerlag, City Manager

From: Susan Leirstein, Purchasing Director
William S. Nelson, Fire Chief

Subject: Waiver of bids for purchase of Vindicator Fire Nozzles

Background

Over the past 10-15 years, the fire service in this country has documented a significant increase in the fuel loading in residential structures. This increased fuel loading has resulted in more rapid flashovers in dwelling fires and generally more rapid heat and smoke development when fires occur.

In 2009, the Troy Fire Department initiated a project to evaluate nozzles to determine if there was a more effective nozzle to address the increased fire loading issue. Fire flows, nozzle pressures, fire temperatures, and general nozzle performance were evaluated in live fire environments and it was determined that the Vindicator nozzle provided a significant improvement over existing nozzle performance. The fire department purchased several Vindicator nozzles and deployed them to the fire stations for field testing. The results of this testing indicated that the Vindicator nozzle significantly shortened the time required to "knock down" fire and did so with more gallons per minute of water delivered while decreasing the nozzle reaction force experienced by the firefighters. These factors result in several benefits: improved firefighter safety, less water used, and less water damage.

First Strike Technologies, Inc. is the sole manufacturer and distributor for this product so there is no benefit from soliciting bids for these nozzles.

Recommendation

City management recommends that the bid process be waived and a purchase order be awarded to First Strike Technologies, Inc. to purchase 24 Vindicator Heavy Attack nozzles for \$20,498.80. Funds are budgeted in the 2011-2012 Fire Operations budget for this project.



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