



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date: October 27, 2014

To: Brian Kischnick, City Manager

From: MaryBeth Murz, Purchasing Manager
William Nelson, Fire Chief
Peter Hullinger, Technician

Subject: Bid Waiver - High and Low Pressure Air Lift Bags

History

As part of the Fire Department's inventory of specialized rescue equipment, the Fire Department maintains high and low pressure lift bags. These bags, range from 6" x 6" to 37" x 37", utilize compressed air and can stabilize and lift extremely heavy loads up to 74 tons. These bags have been utilized in vehicle extrications involving large trucks and industrial incidents where workers were trapped in heavy machinery. These air bags are constructed of rubber and Kevlar composite materials and have a service life of ten years. The City's current air bags are 12 years old.

Purchasing

The Fire Department has been using Paratech Maxiforce air bags for the last 12 years. Due to their performance and the specialized training needed to use these bags it is recommended that the Paratech bags continue to be purchased. Paratech is also providing a trade in allowance of 20% for the existing air bags.

The bid process is waived because First Due Fire Supply Company of Mason, MI is the official authorized distributor for Paratech in the State of Michigan. Also, note that in May, 2013; the City of Royal Oak bid these items via the MITN website and First Due Fire Supply Company was the only company to bid these items.

Financial

The total cost of the replacement air bag set including new air hoses and control valves is \$23,791.60. \$20,000 is budgeted in the Fire Department operating equipment budget for this purchase. Other proposed purchases will be adjusted to stay within the operating equipment budget.

Recommendation

City management recommends that the bid process be waived and a contract be awarded to First Due Fire Supply Company of Mason, MI to purchase Paratech Maxiforce airbags for an estimated cost of \$23,791.60.