



CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

August 2, 2007

TO: Phillip L. Nelson, City Manager

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

SUBJECT: Bid Waiver - Fire Department Hose Testing

Background

- National standards require that fire departments pressure test fire hose annually.
- The fire department has approximately 48,000 feet of fire hose of various sizes.
- Troy volunteer firefighters expend an average of 625 man-hours per year conducting hose testing.
- Troy fire pumpers are utilized to pressure test fire hose and hose testing results in several apparatus repairs annually.
- On occasion, hose under test ruptures and may cause injury to personnel or damage to apparatus.
- FireCATT, a Troy based company, provides hose testing services for fire departments utilizing specialized testing equipment and all labor required to load, unload and test the hose.
- There are no other vendors that provide this service in the Detroit metropolitan area.
- In addition to testing the hose, FireCATT assigns and attaches a barcode label to each length of hose and updates a database with the pertinent information about each length of hose.
- Contracting fire hose testing will allow additional fire training for firefighters and reduce maintenance on fire apparatus.

Financial Considerations

- FireCATT offers two prices, depending on whether the hose is on apparatus (\$.285/foot) or in racks at the station (\$.235/foot)
- Based on the amount of hose to be tested and it's location, the estimated cost is approximately \$13,000.
- Funds are budgeted in the Fire Halls Contractor Equipment Maintenance Account # 344.7802.150 to perform this testing.

August 2, 2007

To: Phillip L. Nelson, City Manager
Re: Bid Waiver – Fire Hose Testing

Legal Considerations

- Formal bidding procedures are waived, as no benefit would be derived from soliciting formal bids.

Policy Considerations

- Enhance the livability and safety of the community. (Goal I)
- Minimize the cost and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of City Government. (Goal II)

Options

- City management and the Fire department are requesting a waiver of the formal bid process and authorization to utilize the services of FireCATT of Troy, MI, for fire hose testing at an estimated total cost of \$13,000.00.



Chief Bill Nelson
Troy Fire Department
500 West Big Beaver Rd.
Troy, MI 48084
248-524-3419

July 12, 2007

Dear Chief Nelson:

We have discussed the probability of Troy outsourcing their hose testing requirements for 2007. FIRE CATT is excited to be included in these discussions. I have included below the specifications we have set for the testing per our discussions.

1. Document all Hose Data per the NFPA 1962 Standard
2. Test each fire hose according to the stated Service Test Pressure on each hose per the NFPA 1962 Standard
3. Test each hose dated prior to 1987 according to the NFPA 1962 Standard
4. Test multiple diameter hose simultaneously at the required hose test pressures to minimize apparatus downtime
5. Capable of testing 3,000 feet of hose per test cycle to minimize apparatus downtime.
6. Provide hard copy Hose Test Report within 1 week of each test.
7. Provide internet web access, login name and password, via www.firecatt.com, to all data in excel format within 1 week of payment received date.
8. Provide data sort capability on internet report for special reporting formats and tracking.

Throughout our discussions the issues of safety, time, technology and tracking are the most important to you and your department. The specifications set above allow for these requirements to be met. At this point in time we have not encountered other hose testing companies in the marketplace. As a new service to the market we have designed our testing and reporting technology to meet the requirements of the industry.

In today's business environment I understand the need for competitive bidding. And, I encourage you to examine the marketplace for fire hose testing companies. We have yet to encounter another hose testing company in the Michigan/Ohio/Indiana region. Let alone a service provider nationally that can meet these state-of-the-art testing capabilities.

FIRE CATT is the single source supplier of fire hose testing services. If you require a formal bid we would be pleased to participate in the process. If, after careful review, you find that there are no other options in the marketplace for these valuable services, we would be happy to provide a quality service testing program for the City of Troy Fire Department.

Best Regards,

Rex E. Curtis, President



3250 West Big Beaver Rd.
 Suite 544
 Troy, MI 48084
 248-643-7200 Ext. 10

2007 Hose Testing Contract

Troy Fire Department 500 West Big Beaver Rd. Troy, MI 48084 248-524-3419	P. O. Number:
	Key Contact: Bill Nelson, Fire Chief

[Total Footage]	[Price per Foot]	[Ext.]
Unknown *	\$ 0.285	
Unknown **	\$ 0.235	
* Pricing for all hose loaded onto trucks and services conducted no later than December 1, 2007. ** Pricing for all hose loaded onto racks and services conducted no later than December 1, 2007.		

Fire Hose Testing Service Includes:

- FIRE CATT Labor
- Identification Tracking Process
- Computerized Reporting and Internet Tracking
- Test All Hose to NFPA 1962 Standards
- Unpack / Repack All Hose Beds and Racks
- Check All Couplings
- Check all Gaskets As Needed

Customer will be responsible for water supply and any costs associated with the supply of water or the transport to and from the service test site.

Contact Name: Bill Nelson, Fire Chief

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Terms: Net 30 Days

Service Test Records Delivered Upon Payment

FIRE CATT, a Limited Liability Corporation, will inspect and service test all hose and couplings in accordance with the Standards of the NFPA as set forth in Section 7 of the "Standard for the Inspection, Care, and Use of Fire Hose, Couplings, and Nozzles". It is expressly understood and agreed that FIRE CATT shall not be deemed or held liable, obligated or accountable upon or under any guarantees or warranties, express or implies, statutory, by operation of the law, or otherwise, relative to the use of any tested fire hose, couplings, or nozzles immediately after the date of inspection. Furthermore, FIRE CATT, will not be held liable, obligated or accountable for any hose lengths that fail during testing under specified conditions and pressures.