



CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

April 8, 2009

TO: John Szerlag, Acting City Manager

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

SUBJECT: Bid Waiver – Sole Source Service – FireService Management

Background

- The Fire department has been utilizing the cleaning and repair services of FireService Management of Southfield, MI, to service our turn-out gear – protective clothing.
- In order to evaluate, clean and repair the City's protective clothing, the department delivers and picks up all of our protective clothing directly from FireService Management, the sole known service provider in this area.
- Before any evaluation or repairs are made, the clothing must be professionally cleaned to remove potential carcinogens.
- In order to extend the life and service of the Fire department's protective clothing, it's in the City's and firefighters' best interest to clean and repair turn-out gear and replace when beyond their useful life.
- The N.F.P.A. recommended useful life of firefighters protective clothing is ten years. By maintaining the turn-out gear in this manner, the department expects it to reach its full potential.

Financial Considerations

- Funds to provide this service are available from the Fire Operations Operating Supplies Account #101.336.338.7740.115.
- Turn-out gear is unusable if damaged, and must be repaired or replaced. Each time a repair is made and the gear is not replaced, the City saves an estimated \$1261.00. (\$139.00 to clean/repair verses \$1400.00 to replace the gear) The savings add up with 170 firefighters issued one set each.

Legal Considerations

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

Policy Considerations

- The contract will assist the Fire department in its mission to protect the Firefighters.

Options

- City management and the Fire department request authorization to continue cleaning and repairing turn-out gear - protective clothing with FireService Management of Southfield, MI, the sole known local provider, in an amount not-to-exceed \$20,000.00 per year.

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Information provided by: Keith Lenderman, Assistant Fire Chief