



CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

DATE: May 11, 2010

TO: John Szerlag, City Manager

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

SUBJECT: Purchase of Firefighting Protective Helmets

Background:

- The protective helmets worn by Troy firefighters are showing excessive wear from use and age.
- Per the NFPA 1971 standard (2007 edition) all structural firefighting personal protective equipment is limited to a 10 year service life from date of manufacture. All of the helmets currently in use by Troy firefighters were manufactured in May 2000.
- The standard requires that after 10 years of service all protective equipment components, including helmets, must be removed from service and can no longer be used for structural firefighting.
- The Troy Fire Department Safety Committee is comprised of firefighters and officers that evaluate equipment and standards for the Troy fire department. The Safety Committee evaluated a number of helmets that were bid and determined that the American Classic Helmet from Lion Apparel provided the highest level of protection and user comfort.
- On May 5, 2010, bid proposals were received for new structural firefighting helmets.
- 142 vendors were notified via the MITN system. Five (5) bids were received from three (3) companies.
- Both Douglas Safety Systems, LLC and Alert Emergency Equipment Group bid alternate products manufactured by Bullard and Fire DEX respectively. The Bullard helmet did not meet helmet assembly in that the impact liner is non-expansive. And both the Bullard and Fire DEX's helmets did not meet shell specifications in that their shells are an inch taller from the top surface to the helmet brim. The increased height can affect the center of gravity resulting in increased neck fatigue for the firefighter. Additionally, the Bullard helmet did not perform as well in the City's wear testing in that the fit and feel was not acceptable for the extended length and strenuous activities of the firefighters.
- The American Classic Helmet has the lowest center of gravity of all the helmets tested which makes it the most ergonomic by reducing the strain imposed on the firefighters neck for the extended length of time helmets are worn.
- The Purchase of protective firefighting helmets supports the volunteer firefighters and police officers who help to make this a safe community.

Financial Considerations:

- The unit cost is \$212.00 per helmet with a total cost of \$48,336.00.
- Funds are budgeted in the Fire Operations, fire equipment account #338.7740.115 for this equipment.

Legal Considerations:

- ITB-COT 10-16, to furnish new structural firefighting helmets was competitively bid as required by City Charter and Code.

Recommendation:

- City management recommends awarding a contract to purchase the American Classic helmet manufactured by Lion Apparel from Douglas Safety Systems, LLC of Sanford, MI, for an estimated total cost of \$48,336.00.

Opening Date -- 05/05/10
 Date Prepared -- 05/05/10

CITY OF TROY
 BID TABULATION
 FIRE HELMETS

VENDOR NAME: jh

Bid #1

** Dougllass Safety	Alert Emergency	Broner Glove	
Systems, LLC	Equipment Group	& Safety	

PROPOSAL: TO FURNISH NEW FIREFIGHTING HELMETS FOR THE CITY OF TROY FIRE DEPARTMENT

EST. QTY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	UNIT PRICE	UNIT PRICE
228 Each	Firefighting Helmet in accordance with specification	\$ 212.00	\$ 215.00	\$ 220.00
ESIMATED TOTAL PRICE:		\$ 48,336.00	\$ 49,020.00	\$ 50,160.00
QUOTING ON STYLE:		Amer. Clas	American Classic	1044
MANUFACTURED BY:		FLH2120E	Paul Conway	MSA/CAIRS
AUTHORIZED DEALER:	Y or N	Yes	Yes	Yes
CONTACT INFORMATION:	Hrs of Operation	8 AM to 5 PM M-F	8 AM to 5 PM	7 AM to 5:30 PM
	Phone No.	989-687-7600	517-647-5365	800-521-1318
DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE:	Marked as	Blank	Blank	CAIRNS
PAYMENT TERMS:		Net 30 Days	Net 30 Days	Net 30
WARRANTY:		5 yrs - Manufacturer	Manufacturer Warranty	As stated by manufacturer
DELIVERY:	No Later than 45 days after Receipt of Order			
NON-COLLUSION FORM	Y or N	Yes	Yes	Yes
EXCEPTIONS:		Meets	45 Business Day Delivery	See Attached Cairns Specs
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:	Y or N	Yes	Yes	Yes

DF, LB, PH &
 BA - OK
 Rec 5/04/10 1:07PM

DMS:
 Douglas Safety Systems, LLC - Alternate Bid - (\$44,954.76) Reason: did not meet helmet assembly & shell specs
 Alert Emergency Equip Group - Alternate Bid #2 (\$46,338.72) Reason: did not meet shell specs

ATTEST:
 Diane Fisher
 Peter Hullinger
 Keith Leaderman
 Linda Bockstanz

**** DENOTES LOWEST ACCEPTABLE BIDDER**
 Susan Leirstein CPPO CPPB
 Purchasing Director