

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

55380

Agenda Number

14.

Meeting Date:

March 3, 2016

Department:

Purchasing

Subject

Authorize award and execution of a 12-month contract through the Texas Local Government Purchasing Cooperative with CASCO INDUSTRIES INC. to provide leather firefighting boots in an amount not to exceed \$162,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$81,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget of the Austin Fire Department. Funding for the remaining six months of the original contract period and extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:

Cooperative Purchase

Prior Council Action:

For More Information:

Erin D'Vincent, Senior Buyer Specialist, 512-974-3070

Boards and Commission Action:

Related Items:

MBE / WBE:

This cooperative contract was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9D Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the goods and services required for this contract, there were insufficient subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established.

Additional Backup Information

The contract is for the purchase of leather firefighting boots to provide protective footwear for Austin Fire Department (AFD) operations personnel. These boots comply with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1971) Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Firefighting and Proximity Firefighting. Boots are worn as part of the firefighter's personal protective equipment ensemble along with bunker gear, gloves, helmets and an air pack. The firefighter boots are designed to provide protection to the firefighter's feet while engaged in firefighting activities.

From July 2014 until January 2015, the AFD Safety Office conducted a wear test on various brands of leather firefighting boots. Six operations members representing both male and female firefighters were selected from each shift. Documentation was completed by the members of the wear test which included six different criteria. Based on the results of the wear test, two boots were selected for use by AFD. Initially, two boots were selected because of the difficulty in finding one product that fits well for all 1,129 sworn members. The leading product was determined to be the boot from Globe Manufacturing. The second boot was used extensively by AFD Cadet classes 117 and 118 with poor results. There were numerous fit and wear issues that occurred during the academy and the boot was determined to be unsuitable. Based on all of the results described above, the AFD Safety Office is now requesting that a supply contract be put into place for the Globe boot.

The Texas Local Government Purchasing Cooperative establishes competitively bid contracts that can be utilized by government agencies through a cooperative agreement. These cooperative contracts save taxpayer dollars by leveraging volume-buying power to drive down costs on contracts through a streamlined cooperative purchasing program.

Delay in approving this contract will severely impact outfitting AFD firefighters with appropriate protective footwear.