



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-1355, Agenda Item #: 55.

2/17/2022

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with COBUS Industries, LP for a low floor airside transport bus, in an amount not to exceed \$470,000.

(Note: Sole Source contracts are exempt from the City Code Chapter 2-9D Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Client Department(s)

Fleet Mobility Services.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Capital Budget of Aviation.

Purchasing Language:

Sole Source.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to Bridney Stewart, at 512-974-3127 or Bridney.Stewart@austintexas.gov or to Bartley Tyler, at 512-974-2023 or Bartley.Tyler@austintexas.gov.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract is for the purchase of a low floor airside transport bus that will be used to transport passengers from airplanes on flights that are staged away from available airport terminals on airport hardstand. This vehicle is specifically designed to provide service on the ramps and aprons at airports. It is constructed on a low-profile chassis for easy access, designed to hold up to 132 passengers, and is constructed from aluminum to maximize fuel efficiency when compared to other buses.

Austin Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) is the fastest growing airport in the United States. It continues to experience passenger activity levels above the national average growth rate and continues to break passenger traffic records. Additionally, ABIA is the primary airport for flights being diverted from the Dallas and Houston airports due to inclement weather in those cities. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules requires any flight delayed on the tarmac for more than three hours to disembark the passengers from the plane, which often happens away from the terminal. Special events held in Austin such as South by Southwest, Formula 1, and MotoGP, have resulted in a rapid increase of charter international flights. These flights must be loaded and unloaded away from the terminal in the event of a lack of available gates from which to operate. This vehicle is needed to handle the increase in passenger activities, irregular operations, charter flights, and to assist with meeting the FAA rules.

Fleet Mobility Services and the Office of Sustainability have collaborated to develop a vehicle purchasing process to progress towards our net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions goals. This purchasing standard incorporates the following criteria: pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions impact, available technologies on the market, physical demands on the vehicle, service application, and life-cycle cost. These criteria are applied to all vehicle purchase requests submitted to Fleet Mobility Services. Fleet Mobility Services recommends vehicles that use hybrid, electric, or alternative fuel (e.g. B20 biodiesel, E85 gasoline, propane) powered engines whenever possible.

This vehicle is powered with engines capable of operating on B20 biodiesel (20% biodiesel blended with 80% petro-diesel). The B20 biodiesel that the City currently purchases is approved and compliant with the Texas Council on Environmental Quality. This reduces life cycle greenhouse gas emissions by at least 15%.

The vehicle has been recommended for purchase utilizing a process that involves the Fleet Director, affected department directors, and Assistant City Managers (ACMs). The approval of an ACM is required for all new additions to the City's fleet prior to any requests being made to Financial Services Department.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Mobility.