



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 23-1510, **Agenda Item #:** 34.

3/23/2023

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of two cooperative contracts for the purchase of an Airbus H125 helicopter, helicopter equipment, and completion services, with Helicopter Services, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$5,325,945.

[Note: These procurements were reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9D (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). For the goods required for these procurements, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established].

### **Lead Department**

Financial Services Department.

### **Client Department(s)**

Austin Police Department.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$2,500,000 is available from the Capital Budget of the Austin Police Department. Funding in the amount of \$2,249,441 is available from the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Police Federal Department of Treasury Asset Forfeiture Fund of the Austin Police Department. Funding in the amount of \$576,504 is available from the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Police State Contraband Asset Forfeiture Fund of the Austin Police Department.

### **Purchasing Language:**

Multiple cooperative purchase programs were reviewed for these goods and services. The Financial Services Department has determined this contractor best meets the needs of the department to provide the goods and services required at the best value for the City.

### **For More Information:**

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### **Additional Backup Information:**

These contracts are for the purchase of a new 2022 Airbus H125 AS350b3e helicopter, helicopter equipment, and completion services for the Austin Police Department Air Support Unit. The helicopter will replace an existing Airbus H120 EC120b helicopter which is at its end of life and is no longer supported by Airbus. Manufacturer supplied parts and support for this aircraft are discontinued and have become increasingly more expensive to operate. Additionally, the H120 helicopter is suffering from power degradation due to its age and the number of recorded flight hours on the aircraft.

The H125 is the primary choice for a multi-purpose emergency service aircraft in the single engine helicopter class due to performance, versatility, safety, and low maintenance costs. The helicopter will be used as a

regional aviation asset for public safety in response to critical incidents within the Austin and Capital Area Council of Governments service area. The aircraft can be configured and reconfigured based on different types of life safety aviation operations, including water rescue extractions, power line inspections, fighting wildfires, and critical infrastructure surveillance.

The helicopter equipment and completion services are necessary to make the Airbus H125 aircraft compliant with Federal Aviation Administration standards and operational for public safety use. Additionally, the completion package includes the purchase and installation of a thermal imager and searchlight.

The United States General Services Administration cooperative establishes competitively bid contracts that can be utilized by the State and other government agencies through a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements save taxpayer dollars by leveraging the State's volume-buying power to drive down costs on hundreds of contracts through a streamlined cooperative purchasing program.

If the City is unable to complete these purchases, the Air Support fleet would reduce to one primary aircraft, which would ultimately limit availability to assist in life safety aviation operations.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Safety.