



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Fahey and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Bruce Moe, Finance Director
Dennis Groat, Fire Chief
Gwen Eng, General Services Manager

DATE: December 20, 2005

SUBJECT: Authorize and Appropriate Funds for the Grant Funded Purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) From Fisher Safety in the Amount of \$64,006.60

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council: a) award RFB #677-06 to Fisher Safety in the amount of \$64,006.60 for the purchase of SCBA equipment and b) appropriate \$64,006.60 from the General Fund, for which \$57,606 will be offset by reimbursement of funds from a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

The total cost of equipment purchases under this approved grant is \$64,006.60. This grant is a partial reimbursement program, wherein, the City must first purchase the approved items and submit a request to FEMA for reimbursement. As a result, an appropriation of \$64,006.60 from the General Fund is needed. The grant will reimburse us \$57,605.94 of the total cost.

BACKGROUND:

The approved FEMA Grant is restricted to Fire Operations/Firefighter Safety use. The grant request was specifically written by the City to fund the replacement of 15 out of 25 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). SCBA is one of the most important pieces of personal protective equipment that firefighters have at their disposal. The SCBA provides primary respiratory protection for firefighters in situations where a hazardous environment will, or might be, encountered.

The Fire Department has utilized Scott SCBA for nearly 15 years with great success. At the time of purchase of the existing Scott SCBA, extensive research and hands-on demonstrations showed Scott SCBA to be the highest quality, best fitting, and most user friendly units available. Since that time, many improvements have been made and are mandated by way of new NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) 2002 standards and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) regulations. All new purchases must meet these new NFPA standards, as well as OSHA requirements. Additionally, most of the SCBA equipment is out of warranty and only 4 years from the end of its useful life. Although the Department's current SCBA equipment is outdated and has features that are obsolete, the basic operation of these units is very similar to those that will be purchased with the grant funds. This will reduce training time and instruction on the new units will be done in-house.

Recent research by staff has shown that Scott Health and Safety continues to lead this specialized market in the development of SCBA that are 100% NFPA and OSHA compliant. The new units are CBRN (chemical, biological, radiation, nuclear) protected, come equipped with a personal alarm safety system, and a dual emergency breathing supply system. In addition to improving firefighter safety, the purchase of this equipment will bring the department up to the latest NFPA and OSHA standards. Due to a grant opportunity, the City is able to replace this outmoded equipment while utilizing minimal general funds. Further scheduled replacements will be made through the normal budget cycle. We will, of course, continue to look for grant opportunities as well.

DISCUSSION:

Staff sent bid requests to three vendors and two responses were received. The comparison below shows total price (including sales tax).

Bid Recaps

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Total Bid</u>
1. Fisher Safety	\$64,006.60
2. Hagemeyer	\$83,456.41

A third bid was received late and therefore was not considered. Based on the two bids received, staff recommends awarding an order to the lowest bidder, Fisher Safety, for the purchase of SCBA equipment. The large price differential is because Fisher Safety is the primary vendor on a Federal General Services Administration's contract and therefore, offered the City these items based on that pricing plan. If this purchase is approved, the existing units will be utilized as reserve equipment for the remainder of their useful lives. The new equipment will arrive in approximately 8 weeks.