



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 24, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager  
Submitted by: Jennifer Louis, Chief of Police  
Subject: Contract No. 32400052 Amendment: Berry Brothers Towing and Transport Inc.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract amendment with Berry Brothers, Contract No. 32400052, to extend the existing capacity to perform towing services from \$50,000 to an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2027.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the recommendation would support ongoing operational expenses required for public safety including but not limited to traffic, parking and vehicles subjected to criminal investigations. The funding for this contract will be from the existing police department General Fund budget.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The police department has an ongoing operational need to promptly remove and relocate vehicles that are out of compliance with local and state laws in order to maintain public safety, ensure traffic flow, and preserve access for emergency services. This need is continuous and often time-sensitive, particularly when vehicles pose safety hazards or impede public rights-of-way.

A significant portion of these enforcement actions involve large recreational vehicles and other oversized or complex vehicles that are difficult to move and require specialized towing equipment and expertise. The limited availability of towing providers capable of safely handling these vehicles has the potential to create delays, which can negatively impact enforcement efforts, community safety, and police department efficiency.

Berry Brothers Towing currently provides critical support to the police department in addressing these challenges. The company possesses the specialized heavy-duty equipment and operational capacity necessary to tow and relocate large recreational

vehicles and other non-standard vehicles in compliance with applicable regulations. Their familiarity with police department procedures and ongoing availability allows for timely response and effective coordination.

Given the continuous nature of this enforcement need and the specialized services required, maintaining uninterrupted access to Berry Brothers Towing is essential to supporting police operations and minimizing operational delays. Any disruption in these services could result in enforcement backlogs, increased safety risks, and reduced efficiency in addressing vehicles that are unlawfully parked or otherwise in violation of local and state laws.

### BACKGROUND

Berry Brothers Towing is one of our four towing service companies selected through a competitive process with request for proposals conducted in 2023 with Specification No. 23-11612-C. Berry Brothers Towing is equipped to not only tow standard sized vehicles but the larger abandoned and non-operable recreational vehicles. Additionally, they are available for On-Call standard towing services twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. They have provided reliable, consistently satisfactory, towing services over the life of this contract.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

This contract increase is necessary to support additional towing services, special event operations (including Cal Football), and the anticipated rise in large recreational vehicles during FY 2026 and FY 2027. Failure to increase the contract would significantly impair the Berkeley Police Department's ability to abate recreational vehicles that are in violation of state and local laws.

Such limitations would have adverse impacts on public health, safety, and the environment. Many of the recreational vehicles encountered by the Police Department contain hazardous materials and biological waste. There have been documented instances in which these materials and waste products have been illegally and improperly disposed of, including dumping onto public streets and into the storm drain system. These actions pose a direct risk of pathogen exposure to the public, City staff, and the San Francisco Bay.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Berry Brothers Towing plays an integral role in public safety through its ongoing collaboration with the police department in the removal and relocation of vehicles that are out of compliance with local and state laws. These services directly support public safety operations by ensuring roadways, public spaces, and emergency access routes remain clear and safe for community use.

Many of the vehicles handled by Berry Brothers Towing include large recreational vehicles and other oversized or non-standard vehicles that are often difficult to move or relocate. The complexity and potential safety risks associated with towing such vehicles require specialized expertise, training, and equipment. Berry Brothers Towing possesses the necessary heavy-duty equipment and technical capability to safely and efficiently tow these larger vehicles in compliance with applicable regulations.

Given the company's demonstrated experience, operational reliability, and capacity to support the City of Berkeley in complex towing situations, Berry Brothers Towing is well-suited to continue providing these critical services. Their role contributes directly to maintaining public safety, regulatory compliance, and the effective functioning of municipal and law enforcement operations.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Not extending the current contract, and thereby reducing the level of towing service currently available, would negatively impact our ability to remove and relocate vehicles that are out of compliance with local and state laws, thereby directly affecting public safety.

CONTACT PERSON

Jennifer Louis, Police Chief, (510) 981-5700

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT NO. 32400052 AMENDMENT: BERRY BROTHERS TOWING AND  
TRANSPORT INC.

WHEREAS, Berry Brothers Towing plays an integral role in supporting public safety operations by working in coordination with the police department to remove and relocate vehicles that are out of compliance with local and state laws; and

WHEREAS, the timely removal of unlawfully parked or non-compliant vehicles is essential to maintaining public safety, traffic flow, and access for emergency services; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of these enforcement actions involve large recreational vehicles and other oversized or non-standard vehicles that are difficult to move and require specialized towing equipment and expertise; and

WHEREAS, Berry Brothers Towing possesses the specialized heavy-duty equipment, technical capability, and operational experience necessary to safely and efficiently tow and relocate these larger vehicles in compliance with applicable regulations; and

WHEREAS, the police department has an ongoing and continuous operational need for reliable towing services capable of addressing these complex vehicle removals without delay.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute an amendment to Contract No. 32400052 with Berry Brothers Towing to extend the existing capacity to perform towing services from \$50,000 to an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2027.