



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
November 3, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
 Submitted by: David Sprague, Interim Fire Chief  
 Subject: Purchase Order: Bauer Compressors Inc. for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Related Accessories

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to issue purchase orders with Bauer Compressors Inc. using the Houston Galveston Area (H-GAC) contract No. EE08-19 for an amount not to exceed \$1.7 million through July 31, 2023 for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and related accessories.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The purchase price of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and related accessories will not exceed \$1.7 million. This total includes state and local sales taxes. Funding in the amount of \$1,158,441 will be appropriated in the FY 2023 First Amendment to the Annual Appropriations Ordinance in the UC Settlement Fund. The remaining amount is already budgeted in FY 2023 in this same fund.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

This purchase is necessary to replace the currently obsolete and substandard SCBA. The new SCBA's will enable the Department to improve firefighter safety, accountability, mutual aid compatibility, reduce expenditures for ongoing repairs, and meet applicable National Fire Protection Association standards.

BACKGROUND

On July 25, 2017 the City Council approved Resolution No. 68,098-N.S. for a purchase order with Scott Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Since that time the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard No. 1982 "Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus" was modified. These modifications drove substantial physical improvements to SCBA design to improve firefighter safety. These changes were significant enough that there is no backwards compatibility with the new SCBA thus rendering the City's current fleet of SCBA obsolete. As SCBA reach their end-of-life and are in need of replacement and as the Department expands and needs to purchase additional SCBA for new personnel,

those units are unable to operate interchangeably with the rest of the SCBA fleet, which represents an unsurmountable safety issue for employees who routinely operate in atmospheres that are Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH). IDLH is defined as an atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standard No. 1910.134 - "Respiratory protection".

Fire departments in Alameda County have already made the transition to this new style of SCBA for similar reasons. Berkeley and Albany are the last two Departments in the County still using the outdated style of SCBA.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects associated with the subject of this report.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard No. 1982 "Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus" was modified. These modifications drove substantial physical improvements to SCBA design to improve firefighter safety. Some of these enhancements include a rating that allows personnel to clean the SCBA after fires using a machine that removes carcinogens to reduce the development of cancer in Berkeley firefighters; one-way mask valves to stop cross contamination when rescuing another firefighter; Bluetooth link to radios that will provide far superior communication on the emergency scene; link to a cloud-based system that allows the Incident Commander to monitor individual firefighter location, and air levels when firefighters are working inside of a burning structure. Another firefighter safety feature is the addition of the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) and Universal Air Connection (UAC) which allows each firefighter on scene the ability to initiate a rescue of a downed firefighter and simplifies the rescue procedures in high stress situations.

These changes were significant enough that there is no backwards compatibility with the new SCBA thus rendering the City's current fleet of SCBA obsolete. The new SCBA's are in compliance with the current NFPA requirements and will improve safety for firefighters engaging in fire suppression and rescue operations in IDLH. These SCBA will place our firefighters on the same platform as all other Alameda County fire departments except one. This enhances our ability to respond into other Alameda County cities and operate safely as well as calling other fire agencies into Berkeley under our Mutual Aid Plan and interact safely on emergency operations.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Staff researched all potential modifications to the current fleet of SCBA, none of which provided a viable alternative that provided protection and safety to employees routinely working in an IDLH.

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CONTACT PERSON

David Sprague, Interim Fire Chief, 510-981-5501

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

PURCHASE ORDER: BAUER COMPRESSORS INC. FOR SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS AND RELATED ACCESSORIES

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2017 the City Council approved Resolution No. 68,098-N.S. for a purchase order with Scott Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), and

WHEREAS, since that time the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard No. 1982 "Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus" was modified, and

WHEREAS, these modifications drove substantial physical improvements to SCBA design to improve firefighter safety. These changes were significant enough that there is no backwards compatibility with the new SCBA thus rendering the City's current fleet of SCBA obsolete, and

WHEREAS, as SCBA reach their end-of-life and are in need of replacement and as the Department expands and needs to purchase additional SCBA for new personnel, those units are unable to operate interchangeably with the rest of the SCBA fleet, which represents an unsurmountable safety issue for employees who routinely operate in atmospheres that are Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH), and

WHEREAS, this purchase is necessary to replace the currently obsolete and substandard SCBA, and

WHEREAS, the new SCBA's will enable the Department to improve firefighter safety, accountability, mutual aid compatibility, reduce expenditures for ongoing repairs, and meet applicable National Fire Protection Association standards.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to issue purchase orders with Bauer Compressors Inc. using the General Services Agency's (GSA) contract No. EE08-19 for an amount not to exceed \$1.7 million through July 31, 2023 for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and related accessories.