



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
April 12, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Abraham Roman, Fire Chief, Fire Department
Subject: Purchase Order: Eight (8) Emergency Vehicle Utility Pickup Trucks for the Berkeley Fire Department

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to waive the competitive procurement process for purchase and upfitting of emergency vehicles for the Berkeley Fire Department (Department) for eight (8) utility pickup vehicles in an amount not to exceed \$621,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The purchase of these vehicles will not exceed \$621,000 and includes delivery, CA tire fees, sales tax and upfitting costs. Funding for this purchase will be provided through the Vehicle Replacement Fund and the FY2022 Measure FF budget (Fund 164).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Department has worked with General Services to attempt to procure vehicles through approved Cooperative Contracts since December of 2021. Due to supply chain delays related to the pandemic, these vehicles will either not be in production until an unknown date, or if in production, have forecasted lead times of 30 weeks or longer. An Invitation to Bid would not be advantageous at this time for the same two reasons.

These purchases are “*deemed by the City Manager to be an actual emergency and of urgent necessity for the preservation of life, health or property*” (City Charter Section 67a). They critical to the Departments ability to maintain and expand fire prevention activities in both the built and wildland interface areas of the city, maintain operational readiness for natural disasters and day-to-day emergency operations and advances the city’s strategic goals of creating a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city and being a customer-focused organization that provides excellent, timely, easily-accessible service and information to the community.

The Department is requesting to waive competition for purchasing and upfitting these vehicles (with lights, sirens and other emergency accessories) so that the Department can secure the vehicles immediately when they are sourced. Once sourced, the

Department needs to procure immediately from a dealership due to the low inventory of vehicles and high demand in the market.

The Department will be working to procure seven (7) pick-up trucks – either Hybrid Ford Mavericks, Ford F150s or an equivalent and one (1) pick-up truck – Ford F250 or equivalent. The actual mix of units is unknown and is dependent upon the inventory found to be available on dealer lots. Vehicles may be sourced through *one or more than one* dealer.

BACKGROUND

This situation is affecting nearly all public agencies in the market for vehicles. In order to maintain operations and expand our fleet to meet the expectations of the community around projects and programs such as wildfire prevention and emergency response these new fire vehicles are required much sooner than 30 weeks.

On March 22nd, 2019 Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency with regard to wildfire risk, “California and the western U.S. are facing an unparalleled risk of catastrophic wildfire in this new climate reality.”

On October 15th, 2019 the Berkeley City Council passed Resolution 69,147-N.S. declaring wildfire prevention and safety a stated top priority for the city of Berkeley. Much of Berkeley is in the CalFIRE Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. A hazard zone that is considered amongst the most vulnerable to life safety during a wildfire event in the state of California. This hazard is based on the physical conditions that create a likelihood and expected fire behavior over a 30 to 50-year period without considering short-term modifications such as fuel reduction efforts.

The Department has been working diligently to implement new programs, projects, and hire new staff following the communities support and mandate enacted through the passage of Measure FF in November of 2020. The pandemic and the resulting shortage of materials, equipment and qualified staff have made this particularly challenging. The Department continues to work with external stakeholders and internal city staff from various departments to develop creative solutions to these novel challenges.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

For every fleet purchase, Public Works staff researches the feasibility and availability of fully electric vehicles and hybrid-electric powertrains to support the City’s transition off fossil fuels. Staff research found that there are no viable electric vehicles for consideration.

In addition to the lack of available electric pickup trucks, there is no current infrastructure at the Fire Stations to support electric charging of vehicles. This purchase aligns with the 2020 Municipal Fleet Electrification assessment that recognized the lack

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of commercially available and viable medium and heavy-duty vehicles. The Municipal Fleet Electrification Assessment proposed to install 51 Charging Stations with 100 chargers and upgrade all 129 vehicles in the light duty fleet to EV by 2030. To Date, PW has installed 31 charging stations and 61 chargers. In the next two years, another five charger installations are planned and contingent on an additional budget allocation of \$850,000, primarily for installation at the Corporation yard. In 2020, the fleet included 46 Hybrids and 15 plug-in hybrid-electric vehicles. Since then, the fleet has added 6 EV Sedans, 3 Hybrid SUVs for the Police Departments (PD), and 4 hybrid pickup trucks. In current FY, the city is processing orders for 11 EV Sedans, 8 PD hybrid SUVs. Public Works is on track to complete conversion of sedans and SUVs to EVs by 2028, two years ahead of the assessment's schedule. In additions, the city fleet has reduced its consumption of traditional gasoline by 33% from a high in 2000, in part due to some of the changes above and because so much of the fleet runs on renewable diesel. Twenty on of the last years vehicle replacements were either hybrid or run-on renewable diesel.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The vehicles are essential vehicles utilized to allow staff to conduct critical prevention activities in the community, respond to emergencies and natural disasters both in the community and throughout the State of California.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Continuing with the normal procurement process which will result in a vehicle delivery sometime after November 2022 at the earliest.

CONTACT PERSON

Abraham Roman, Fire Chief, Fire Department, 510-981-3473

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

PURCHASE ORDER: EIGHT (8) EMERGENCY VEHICLE UTILITY PICKUP TRUCKS
FOR THE BERKELEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Department has worked with General Services to attempt to procure vehicles through approved Cooperative Contracts since December of 2021. Due to supply chain delays related to the pandemic, these vehicles will either not be in production until an unknown date, or if in production, have forecasted lead times of 30 weeks or longer; and

WHEREAS, these purchases are “deemed by the City Manager to be an actual emergency and of urgent necessity for the preservation of life, health or property” (City Charter Section 67a). They critical to the Departments ability to maintain and expand fire prevention activities in both the built and wildland interface areas of the city, maintain operational readiness for natural disasters and day-to-day emergency operations and advances the city’s strategic goals of creating a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city and being a customer-focused organization that provides excellent, timely, easily-accessible service and information to the community; and

WHEREAS, this situation is affecting nearly all public agencies in the market for vehicles. In order to maintain operations and expand our fleet to meet the expectations of the community around projects and programs such as wildfire prevention and emergency response these new fire vehicles are required much sooner than 30 weeks; and

WHEREAS, the Department is requesting to waive competition for purchasing and upfitting these vehicles (with lights, sirens and other emergency accessories) so that the Department can secure the vehicles immediately when they are sourced. Once sourced, the Department needs to procure immediately from a dealership due to the low inventory of vehicles and high demand in the market; and

WHEREAS, the Department will be working to procure seven (7) pick-up trucks – either Hybrid Ford Mavericks, Ford F150s or an equivalent and one (1) pick-up truck – Ford F250 or equivalent. The actual mix of units is unknown and is dependent upon the inventory found to be available on dealer lots. Vehicles may be sourced through one or more than one dealer.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to waive the competitive procurement process for purchase and upfitting of emergency vehicles for the Berkeley Fire Department (Department) for eight (8) utility pickup vehicles in an amount not to exceed \$621,000.