



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 12, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: LaTanya Bellow, Deputy City Manager; Interim Director, Public Works
 Subject: Purchase Order: Braun Northwest, Inc. for One (1) North Star 155 Type 1 Ambulance

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution satisfying requirements of City Charter Article XI Section 67.2 allowing the City to participate in HGACBuy contract bid procedures and authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase order for one (1) 2023 North Star 155-1 Type 1 Ambulance with Braun Northwest, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$284,974.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The purchase of one (1) North Star 155-1 Type 1 Ambulance will not exceed \$284,974 and includes delivery, CA tire fees and sales tax. Funding for this purchase is available in the FY 2024 budget for Equipment Replacement Fund.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

This purchase will replace unit 1914 that has reached the end of its useful life expectancy. The new asset will be utilized by the Berkeley Fire Department Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Staff to provide critical emergency medical services throughout the City of Berkeley. The new ambulance will have a compact and efficient design, and is custom-built for quality, durability, and maximum functionality. The aluminum construction is designed to reduce weight and provide superior crash protection.

This purchase supports the City's Strategic Plan Goal of creating a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared City.

BACKGROUND

If a purchase request exceeds \$25,000, the Department of Finance, General Services Division solicits bids or "piggybacks" off competitively bid contracts to ensure the City's departments is receiving the best pricing.

The City of Berkeley has been a no-cost member of Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGACBuy), a Cooperative Purchasing Program that has offered inter-local purchasing since 2008. HGACBuy provides procurement services that make the government procurement process more efficient by establishing competitively priced contracts for goods and services made available to local governments nationwide.

Products and services offered through HGACBuy have been subjected to a public competitive bid process. On April 2, 2020 HGACBuy released an Invitation to Submit a Competitive Bid, No AM-10-20 for Ambulances, EMS & Other Special Service Vehicles. The solicitation was nationally advertised for thirty-six days. On May 7, 2020, twenty-four proposals were submitted and reviewed by the Houston-Galveston Area Council which selected Braun Northwest, Inc. as the best, most responsive and responsible proposer to meet the specifications, thereby awarding Contract No. AM10-20.

HGACBuy charges an order processing fee for each sale successfully completed through their contract. For this purchase a flat fee charge of \$1,000 will be paid directly to HGACBuy by Braun Northwest, Inc.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Public Works Equipment Maintenance Division researches the feasibility and availability of fully electric vehicles and hybrid-electric powertrains to support the City's transition off fossil fuels. Staff found there are no viable options available that meet the configuration and safety upgrades available in the current fleet. There are several companies in development and production stages of EV Emergency Medical Service vehicles, and the Fire Department is interested in testing those models when available.

In addition, there is no infrastructure available at the Fire Stations to support the electric charging of vehicles. The new ambulance will utilize 100% renewable diesel fuel. Usage of renewable diesel also complies with the City's Fossil Free Recommendations. This purchase aligns with the 2020 Municipal Fleet Electrification assessment that recognized the lack of commercially available and viable medium and heavy-duty vehicles. The Equipment Maintenance Division continues researching the availability of all electric ambulances.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Equipment must be replaced on a reasonable schedule to ensure the Fire Department can efficiently, safely, and effectively carry out its duties.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None. Keeping equipment longer than its useful life results in higher maintenance costs and excessive downtimes in order to keep operating in a safe and serviceable manner.

CONTACT PERSON

Greg Ellington, Superintendent, Department of Public Works (510) 981-6469
Joy Brown, Operations Manager, Department of Public Works (510) 981-6629

Attachment:

1. Resolution

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

PURCHASE ORDER: BRAUN NORTHWEST, INC. FOR ONE (1) NORTH STAR TYPE
155-1 AMBULANCE

WHEREAS, one (1) North Star 155-1 Type 1 Ambulance is needed by the City Fire Department to provide ambulatory service in Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 67.2 allows the City to purchase goods without undergoing a competitive bid process if the City uses pricing obtained by another entity through a competitive bid process; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020 Houston Galveston Area Council (HGACBuy) released an invitation to submit a Competitive Bid, No. AM10-20 for Ambulances, EMS & Other Special Service Vehicles. The solicitation was released for approximately thirty-six days and twenty-four bids were submitted and reviewed; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2020 HGACBuy selected Braun Northwest, Inc. as the best and most responsive bidder to meet the specifications, thereby awarding Contract No. AM10-20; and

WHEREAS, funds in the amount of \$284,974 are available in the FY2024 budget in the (671) Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a purchase order for one North Star Type 155-1 Ambulance with Braun Northwest, Inc. In an amount not to exceed \$284,974.

