



City of Tacoma

Resolution No.: _____

Meeting Date: August 15, 2023

**Contract and Award Letter
Purchase Resolution —Exhibit "A"**

TO: Board of Contracts and Awards
FROM: Toryono Green, Fire Chief, Tacoma Fire Department
Tacoma Fire Department
Teresa Green, Business Services Manager, Fire Finance Division
COPY: City Council, City Manager, City Clerk, SBE Coordinator, LEAP Coordinator, and
Ryan Foster, Finance/Purchasing
SUBJECT: Nine 2024 North Star 171-1 Ambulances for EMS Savvik Purchasing group,
Contract No. PSAI 2020-04 – August 15, 2023, City Council
DATE: July 20, 2023

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY:

The Tacoma Fire Department (TFD) recommends a contract be awarded to Braun Northwest, Inc., Chehalis, Washington, in the amount of \$2,847,889.00, plus 10 percent contingency, plus applicable taxes, budgeted from the EMS Special Revenue Fund 1155, for purchase of nine 2024 North Star 171-1 Ambulances.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.

BACKGROUND:

TFD currently has an ambulance fleet that is well beyond its useful life that has resulted in an unsustainable rise in maintenance costs. In addition, TFD has expanded Emergency Medical Services to include Basic Life Support (BLS) services and experienced an increase in call volume, further straining TFD's fleet. TFD's current fleet of ambulances have been experiencing an increased amount of time out of service for maintenance and repairs. This has impacted call response times and the number of calls an ambulance responds to in a day, which we expect to increase with our current fleet. Combining our aging fleet with the expansion of BLS services, TFD expects the increase in maintenance costs and emergency calls to further exacerbate the issue.

ISSUE: The current vehicles are well beyond useful life and have become too expensive to maintain with increased usage. With the loss of our vendor sooner than anticipated and the department having to expand of Basic Life Support services, Emergency Medical Services have dramatically increased. The increased call volume and aging fleet continue to cause longer lead times. TFD is in dire need of purchasing replacement units. Using budgeted resources, TFD intends to purchase nine North Star ambulances from Braun Northwest, Inc. using a cooperative from the Savvik purchasing group.

ALTERNATIVES: TFD could choose not to purchase any ambulances at this time or could delay the purchase. Doing either would negatively impact the Fire Department and the Emergency Medical services it provides to the South Sound region. Delays in replacement would result in increased costs in maintenance as well as the future costs of purchasing an ambulance will continue to increase. The cost of an ambulance has increased by 20 percent and build times have increased by over six months.



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COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION:

Request for Bid Specification No. 2020-04 was opened July 11, 2020 through Savvik Buying Group’s public purchasing programs. With Savvik Buying group specializing in national EMS cooperative purchasing solutions it is in the best interest of the City to utilize this pre-existing contract as it is for a type of ambulance that currently meets all required specs for the Fire Department. Using this method will ensure reasonable pricing without the cost to the City of completing our own competitive solicitation resulting in equivalent pricing.

CONTRACT HISTORY: New Contract

SUSTAINABILITY: The vehicles being purchased are intended to be emergency medical transports, capable of reliably and durably performing in a frontline assignment for five years and up to 200,000 miles followed by up to five additional years as a secondary reserve vehicle in Emergency Service. Although performance, safety and durability are our highest priorities, we also consider options for the potential use of recycled products in vehicle manufacturing and maintenance.

SBE/LEAP COMPLIANCE: Not Applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1155 EMS Special Revenue	609100	6539850	\$2,847,889
TOTAL			\$2,847,889

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1155 EMS Special Revenue	609100	various	\$2,847,889
TOTAL			\$2,847,889



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FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: All expenses are expected in 2024 when the vehicles are delivered.

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.

N/A