



**TO:** Board of Contracts and Awards  
**FROM:** Toryono Green, Acting Fire Chief *Te*  
Faith Mueller, Deputy Chief, Operations *JMM*  
**COPY:** City Council, City Manager, City Clerk, SBE Coordinator, LEAP Coordinator, and  
Patsy Best, Finance/Purchasing  
**SUBJECT:** MSA G1 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Accessories – Waiver of Competitive  
Solicitation, Not Practicable to Bid – August 18, 2015  
**DATE:** August 3, 2015

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**SUMMARY:**

The Tacoma Fire Department recommends authorization of an agreement with Mine Safety Appliances (MSA) in the amount of \$300,000, including shipping and tax, to replace 163 of the department’s MSA M7 FireHawk self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) with MSA G1 SCBA.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.

The proposal will provide to the Fire Department safer, more reliable SCBA for structural firefighting.

**BACKGROUND:**

In June 2013, in response to a Request for Bids FD13-0135F, the City Council approved Resolution No. 38677, awarding a contract to SeaWestern, Kirkland, Washington, the local equipment dealer for MSA, to provide 163 sets of MSA M7 FireHawk SCBA and accessories to the Fire Department. The total amount of the contract was \$967,722.52, plus tax and maintenance. About \$742,500 of the total contract was paid using federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant funds.

Shortly after implementation, the Fire Department determined it was necessary to replace all 163 FireHawk M7 SCBA. MSA has proposed to replace all of the M7 FireHawk SCBA and accessories with G1 SCBA and comparable accessories for \$300,000.

Replacement of the FireHawk M7 with G1 SCBA is expected to provide more technically advanced equipment with better warranties and extend the life cycle of the Fire Department’s SCBA by an additional five years. The \$300,000 additional cost is approximately 25 percent of what MSA would normally charge to purchase or upgrade all 163 G1 SCBA and related equipment.

**ISSUE:** The Fire Department believes replacement of the existing MSA FireHawk M7 equipment is the best option for the City.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Other options considered included litigation, returning to a previous generation of MSA equipment or purchasing the equipment of competitors. The alternative options are estimated to cost more and provide little potential benefit as compared to the proposed MSA G1 replacement.



**COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS:** A waiver of competitive solicitation is requested due to special market conditions making it not practicable to bid for these products. Fire staff compared the value of the MSA replacement proposal to the estimated cost or value of the other options considered. Because MSA is the manufacturer of Fire’s current and proposed SCBA, they are uniquely able to propose the replacement for the small additional value indicated.

**CONTRACT HISTORY:** New contract.

**SUSTAINABILITY:** MSA has a formal environmental sustainability policy and emphasizes responsible environmentally sensitive manufacturing and recycling practices.

**SBE/LEAP COMPLIANCE:** Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Fire Department recommends authorization of an agreement with MSA, in the amount of \$300,000, to replace 163 MSA FireHawk M7 SCBA and accessories with an identical quantity of MSA G1 SCBA and accessories.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**EXPENDITURES:**

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
0010 General Fund/Fire Dept.	253000	5210400	\$300,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			

\* General Fund: Include Department

**REVENUES:**

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**POTENTIAL POSITION IMPACT:**

POSITION TITLE	PERMANENT/ PROJECT TEMPORARY POSITION	FTE IMPACT	POSITION END DATE
(Not Applicable)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

*This section should only be completed if a subsequent request will be made to increase or decrease the current position count.*



**FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$300,000**

**ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED?** No

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

The Fire Department expects to absorb this unbudgeted expense within its current 2015–2016 General Fund operating budget. If needed, the Department may request a budget modification.



City of Tacoma  
Fire Department

**Date:** August 5, 2015

**To:** Patsy Best, Procurement and Payables Division Manager *PB*

**From:** Faith Mueller, Deputy Chief, Operations  
Tacoma Fire Department *FMM*

**Subject:** Waiver of Competitive Solicitation Request – Not Practicable to Bid  
Purchase and Replacement of MSA Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

Please forward for Board of Contracts and Awards review and recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION:** In accordance with TMC 1.06.257.B. (Not Practicable), the Tacoma Fire Department requests a waiver of the competitive solicitation process and recommends award of a contract to **Mine Safety Appliances (MSA) Company, LLC, Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania**, in the amount of \$300,000, including sales tax and shipping, for replacement of 163 MSA FireHawk M7 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and accessories with 163 MSA G1 SCBA and accessories.

**BACKGROUND:** In June 2013, in response to a Request for Bids FD13-0135F, the City Council approved Resolution No. 38677, awarding a contract to SeaWestern, Kirkland, Washington, the local equipment dealer for MSA, to provide 163 sets of MSA FireHawk M7 SCBA and accessories to the Fire Department. The total amount of the contract was \$967,722.52 plus tax, replacement parts, and maintenance.

Shortly after implementation, the Fire Department began to experience operational problems with the equipment. Despite attempts to resolve the problems, the Fire Department eventually determined the equipment needed to be replaced. In response, MSA provided its purchase proposal that replaces the Fire Department's existing equipment with 163 sets of new MSA G1 SCBA and accessories for \$300,000, including tax and shipping.

Replacement of the FireHawk M7 with G1 SCBA is expected to eliminate the issues Fire experienced with the FireHawk M7 SCBA, provide more technically advanced equipment, better warranties, and extend the life cycle of Fire's SCBA by an estimated five additional years. Fire staff estimates the \$300,000 additional cost is about 25 percent of what the City would otherwise expect to pay to purchase the G1 SCBA and accessories, which are the newest generation SCBA currently on the market.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR WAIVER:** Fire staff compared the value of the MSA replacement proposal to the estimated cost or value of the other options considered, such as litigation, returning to operation our previous (pre-M7) SCBA or purchasing the equipment of competitors. Because MSA is the manufacturer of Fire's current and proposed SCBA, they are uniquely able to propose the replacement for the small additional value indicated. Consequently, Fire staff determined it was not practicable to attempt to bid competitively for other proposals.

**FUNDING:** Funds for this purchase are available in the 2015–2016 Fire Department General Fund budget (accounting: 0010/253000/5210400).

**PROJECT COORDINATOR:** Michael Fitzgerald, 253-591-5157.

**CONCUR AS TO IMPRACTICABLE TO BID:**

  
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Toryono Green, Acting Fire Chief

8-5-15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
T.C. Broadnax, City Manager

8/5/15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

cc: Richelle Krienke, Senior Buyer, Finance/Purchasing

FINANCE PURCHASING

AUG 6 2015 11:00:47