



**Contract and Award Letter
Purchase Resolution – Exhibit “A”**

TO: Board of Contracts and Awards
FROM: Sionna Stallings-Ala'ilima, Interim Fire Chief, Tacoma Fire Department
Teresa Green, Chief of Staff, Public Safety
COPY: City Council, City Manager, City Clerk, EIC Coordinator, LEAP Coordinator, and
Ryan Foster, Senior Buyer, Finance/Purchasing
SUBJECT: Nine 2025 North Star 167-3 Ambulances for EMS Utilizing H-GAC Purchasing
Group, Contract No. AM10-23, SR5090930618 – April 22, 2025, City Council
DATE: March 31, 2025

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY: The Tacoma Fire Department (TFD) recommends a contract be awarded to Braun NW, Inc., Chehalis, Washington, in the amount of \$2,129,842.00, plus 10 percent contingency for a cumulative total of \$2,342,826.20, plus applicable taxes, budgeted from Fund 1155 - EMS Special Revenue, for the purchase of Nine 2025 North Star 167-3 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. With the purchase of nine ambulances expected to be delivered this year, we will get some relief. However, 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.

This purchase will bring all front-line transport units into alignment with recommended replacement age and conditions.

ISSUE: The current vehicles are well beyond useful life and have become too expensive to maintain with increased usage. With the expansion of Basic Life Support services, Emergency Medical Services have dramatically increased. The increased call volume and aging fleet continue to cause longer lead times. Using budgeted resources, TFD intends to purchase nine North Star ambulances from Braun NW inc. using a cooperative from Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC).

ALTERNATIVES: TFD could choose not to purchase any ambulances at this time or could delay the purchase. Doing either would negatively impact the Emergency Medical services and medical transportation 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 recently increased by 20 percent and build times have increased by over six months.



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COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION: Request for Bid Specification No. AM10-23 was opened June 9, 2023, through Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments (H-GAC) public purchasing program. With H-GAC 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. This is a cooperative purchase through the H-GAC. Using this method will ensure reasonable pricing without the cost to the City of conducting our own competitive solicitation which would result 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.

EQUITY IN CONTRACTING (EIC) COMPLIANCE: Not applicable - EIC Exception:
Interlocal/Cooperative Purchasing

**LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM (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	\$2,342,826.20
TOTAL			\$2,342,826.20

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1155 EMS Special Revenue	609100	various	(\$2,342,826.20)
TOTAL			(\$2,342,826.20)

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$2,342,826.20.

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes

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

N/A