



Administrative Memo

Georgetown Fire Department

To: GGAF Committee
From: Clay Shell, Assistant Fire Chief
GFDAM #: 210818-01
Date: August 18, 2021
Re: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Purchase

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Request for Proposal (RFP) ITB No. 202146 be awarded to Heat Safety Equipment in San Antonio, Texas.
2. That the City Manager be authorized to execute renewals of the agreement for up to three additional one-year terms on the same terms and conditions for a total not to exceed of \$200,000.

SUMMARY

1. The City posted the RFP on May 28, 2021. The RFP closed on June 16, 2021. One requirement of this RFP was that the bidders provided trade-in value and acceptance of our current SCBA inventory.
2. The City ensured that the following companies received the RFP:
 - Municipal Emergency Services (MES) – Current SCBA dealer
 - Metro Fire
 - Heat Safety Equipment
 - Hoyt Breathing Air Products
 - We received an email from this company regarding SCBA's stating, "they regret that Hoyt Breathing Air Products will not be able to place a bid on SCBAs. They are under a contractual sales territory and Georgetown is outside of it."
3. The City received one qualifying proposal. Staff evaluated and scored the proposal utilizing the City's Ebid system. Staff is recommending the contract be awarded to Heat Safety Equipment.

BACKGROUND

SCBA's are a fundamental firefighting tool used by firefighters that provide safe breathing air in hazardous atmospheres. Firefighters are required to use these devices as a practical part of their work. The atmosphere hazards that SCBAs protect firefighters from generally fall into three categories: toxic, oxygen deficient or super-heated atmospheres. Firefighters use the SCBA in incidents including fires, automatic fire alarms, gas leaks, carbon monoxide incidents, hazardous materials incidents, and other hazardous atmosphere incidents. Respiratory protection in dangerous atmospheres is a key safety focus in the fire service.

An SCBA consists of backpack, tank of compressed air, a regulator and a face mask. This provides air from the tank for a firefighter to breathe, which allows entry into toxic or oxygen depleted atmospheres. In addition, SCBA devices are equipped with sophisticated safety devices including the Personal Alert Safety System (PASS). The PASS devices sense the

lack of motion and emit an audible alert if a firefighter is disabled.

GFD's inventory of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) has exceeded the industry standard life expectancy of ten years and needs to be replaced. The current SCBAs are 12 years old and the technology is 14 years old.

There are several drivers that contribute to an expected ten-year life span. These include increased maintenance costs, liability due to failure, mandated cylinder life cycles, manufacture no longer able to provide parts and service due to product age, changes in technology that improve fire fighter safety and decreased dependability.

GFD purchased its current inventory of SCBAs starting in 2009. The current SCBAs were manufactured and certified under the 2007 edition of NFPA 1981, Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. This standard establishes the minimum respiratory protection and functional requirements for SCBAs used by emergency services personnel.

The new generation SCBA's are manufactured and certified under the 2018 edition of NFPA 1981. This edition improved firefighter safety requirements with: removable straps and waist belt for easier decontamination; redesigned facemask and regulator with heads up display and future radio interface communications with our radio system; and integrated Pak-Alert SEMS II technology transceiver sends and receives information from the command center computer. Transmitting information such as: air capacity of each firefighter's SCBA; PASS device activation; firefighter accountability and evacuation notifications.

V/R

Clay Shell