



**Department:** Fire  
**Cost Center:** 8502  
**For Agenda of:** 7/11/2023  
**Placement:** Consent  
**Estimated Time:** n/a

**FROM:** Todd Tuggle, Fire Chief  
**Prepared By:** Nicole Vert, Administrative Analyst

**SUBJECT:** AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve the purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus in the amount of \$463,557.75 from Bauer Compressors, Inc.; and
2. Authorize the Finance Director to execute and issue a Purchase Order upon approval.

## POLICY CONTEXT

This action is considered a purchase of goods and in compliance with the City's Municipal Code Section 3.24.080, which requires Council approval for any purchase in excess of \$200,000.

Section 3.24.210 of the City's Municipal Code allows for evaluation of life-cycle costing, analysis of service and maintenance when determining lowest responsible bidder.

## DISCUSSION

### Background

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) are an essential personal protective equipment device worn to provide breathable air in an atmosphere that is immediately dangerous to life and health. They are an integral safety component for Firefighters and are the foundational tool that provide the greatest amount of airway protection from toxic gas and harmful particulates resulting from the fire, allowing firefighters to conduct rescues and suppress fire in an otherwise life-threatening environment.

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), the organization responsible for setting fire safety standards, established a 15-year lifespan for SCBA's. The Fire Department's SCBA's were purchased in 2009 and are at the end of their useful life based on the manufacture date, necessitating replacement. Manufacturers also align their recommended lifecycle with NFPA standards. SCBA's require annual testing to remain in compliance and to ensure they perform properly while in use.

**Bid Award**

Staff advertised a Request for Quotes (RFQ) in March 2023. Bauer Compressors and LN Curtis were the two quotes received. Bauer Compressors' quote is \$463,557.75 (Attachment A). While this is \$37,586.56 over the quote LN Curtis provided (Attachment B), staff recommends awarding the bid to Bauer Compressors due to subsequent services costs and level of service as detailed below.

The recommended supplier of the units will perform the testing and necessary maintenance throughout the life of the units, as well as all warranty repairs. As the units have a 15-year lifespan, staff requested post purchase service agreements. Only Bauer Compressors, Inc, provided a detailed scope of work (Attachments C and D), which had a 30% lower per unit cost than the informal quote for service testing provided by LN Curtis. Bauer provided a quote of \$85 per unit for annual testing while LN Curtis quoted \$110 per unit (Attachment E) Over the life of the SCBA's, the overall cost to purchase and annually service the equipment through Bauer is expected to be similar to the quote provided by LN Curtis. Staff is will establish a service agreement with the recommended supplier to ensure annual servicing and testing of the SCBA units.

Staff also evaluated the responsiveness and reliability of the vendors. Bauer Compressors have already proven to be quicker to respond and provide more clarity in requested information. Additionally, Bauer Compressors currently services the Fire Department's air compressor used to re-fill SCBA air bottles and staff have received exceptional service and responsiveness. Furthermore, Bauer is the chosen vendor for several local agencies, including Paso Robles Fire and Emergency Services, Five Cities Fire Authority and Cal Fire/San Luis Obispo County Fire. Staff consulted with these agencies, and they concurred with the satisfaction of Bauer's service and pricing.

**Public Engagement**

This item is on the agenda for the July 11, 2023, City Council meeting and will follow all the required posting and notification. Public comment on the item can be provided to the City Council through written correspondence prior to the meeting and through public testimony at the meeting.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to recommended actions in this report, because the actions do not constitute a "Project" under the CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15378.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Budgeted: Yes  
Funding Identified: Yes

Budget Year: 2023-24

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>Total Budget Available</b>	<b>Current Funding Request</b>	<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>Annual Ongoing Cost</b>
General Fund	\$2500.00		\$	\$2,500.00
State				
Federal				
Fees				
Other: Public Safety Equipment Replacement Fund	\$600,436.70	\$463,557.75	\$136,878.95	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$602,936.70</b>	<b>\$463,557.75</b>	<b>\$136,878.95</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>

The Public Safety Equipment Replacement Fund was established in 2019 to ensure funding is planned and available for replacement of equipment. SCBA's are a scheduled equipment item in this fund due to the defined and extended lifespan and the critical nature of replacement for the health and safety of the firefighters. The original amount budgeted for the purchase was \$320,000. Due to unexpected inflation the eventual cost was much higher. During the 2023-2025 budget planning the Fire Department requested and was granted an increased contribution to the fund, ensuring the health of the fund for continued scheduled purchases The Fire Department's operating budget under the General Fund includes annual testing and servicing, which will be an ongoing expense associated with this purchase.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. **Council could choose to deny purchase of SCBA's.** Staff does not recommend this as the current SCBA's are at their end of useful life, not having current units could be life-threatening and may prevent firefighters from conducting rescues and taking offensive strategies to extinguish fires.
2. **Council could deny bid award to the recommended supplier and award the bid to the alternative supplier.** Staff does not recommend as Bauer Compressors has proven to be the more reliable vendor and lifetime costs of the SCBA's will even out the purchase cost disparity.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A - Bauer Compressors Quote
- B - LN Curtis Quote
- C - SLO FD Scope of Work
- D - SLO FD Cover Letter
- E - LN Curtis post purchase service