



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting July 23, 2024

DATE: July 23, 2024

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

FROM: Brandon Wade, Fire Chief
BrandonW@cctexas.com
(361) 826-3935

Josh Chronley, Assistant Director of Finance & Procurement
JoshC2@cctexas.com
(361) 826-3169

Purchase of Firefighter Protective Clothing for Corpus Christi Fire Department

CAPTION:

Motion authorizing the purchase of 93 pieces of replacement Casco firefighter protective clothing (coats and pants) for the Corpus Christi Fire Department from Casco Industries, of Houston, Texas, through the BuyBoard Cooperative, for \$78,002.82, with FY 2024 funding in the amount of \$78,002.82 from the General Fund.

SUMMARY:

This motion authorizes the purchase of replacement firefighter protective clothing from Casco Industries, Inc., of Houston, Texas, through BuyBoard Cooperative, for \$78,002.82. The protective clothing will be used by the Corpus Christi Fire Department's (CCFD) firefighters. This protective clothing is also known as bunker gear. Bunker gear protects firefighters from the extreme heat that is encountered daily when fighting fires.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Firefighter protective clothing, also known as bunker gear, is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that firefighters wear every time they enter any environment that may be considered an imminent danger to life and health as well as for any response that requires extrication. It protects firefighters from the extreme heat that is encountered daily when fighting fires.

In recent years, CCFD has standardized its bunker gear inventory by utilizing Globe Firefighters products that are offered through Casco Industries. Globe firefighting bunker gear is specially designed and equipped with three layers of protection consisting of an outer shell, a moisture barrier, and a thermal liner. The bunker gear is manufactured utilizing the highest quality and safety standards available on the market. Casco Industries, Inc. is the exclusive dealer representing Globe Firefighters suits. Casco Industries is the main supplier for all firefighting PPE. Casco Industries provides the highest quality, lowest price, and the timeliest production

and delivery of the PPE. Casco Industries is located in Houston, Texas. These items are not available locally.

The items being purchased by CCFD are 21 replacement bunker coats, 21 replacement bunker pants, and 51 replacement pounder coats. The pounder coats are used for brush firefighting, whereas the bunker gear is used for structural firefighting. Pound coats do not have the thermal or vapor barrier that bunker coats have. This is because brush firefighting requires lighter protective gear for the maneuverability and comfort of firefighters. Pounder coats are cheaper than bunker gear making it more cost-effective for CCFD because they are often torn or otherwise damaged in the course of brush firefighting.

CCFD currently has 454 firefighters that are issued this bunker gear to accomplish their duties safely and effectively. In addition to the 454 sets of bunker gear currently issued to firefighters, CCFD maintains 200 sets of firefighting PPEs to be utilized as “loaners” if issued gear is contaminated or soiled from any toxins or hazardous elements that may be encountered on any given emergency call. The loaner gear is necessary because the National Fire Protection Association 1851 standard requires PPE to be laundered after every structure fire. Typically, bunker gear is replaced every seven years depending on usage and the wear and tear; however, it can be replaced sooner if it is damaged or otherwise needed. Maintaining an adequate level of loaner inventory is crucial for the ability of CCFD firefighters to interchange torn or damaged firefighting bunker gear. When firefighters’ current bunker gear is replaced, the current bunker gear is placed in the loaner stock as long as it is not damaged or otherwise compromised. If the current bunker gear is damaged or otherwise compromised, then it is taken out of service and discarded.

PROCUREMENT DETAIL:

This procurement is through the BuyBoard Cooperative. Contracts awarded through BuyBoard Cooperative have been competitively procured in compliance with Texas, local and state procurement requirements.

Casco Industries is the main supplier for all firefighting PPE. Casco Industries provides the highest quality, lowest price, and the timeliest production and delivery of the PPE. These items are not available locally.

The table below shows that Casco Industries, Inc., through the BuyBoard Cooperative, offers savings of 28% compared to the HGACBuy Cooperative.

Description	BuyBoard	HGACBuy	Variance
Casco Bunker Gear Cost	\$78,002.82	\$100,138.26	\$22,135.44

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to purchase the bunker gear. However, if the bunker gear is not purchased, it will make firefighters vulnerable to serious or even life-threatening injuries. It will also cause CCFD to be out of compliance with the National Fire Protection Association’s 1851 standard.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact for CCFD in FY 2024 is an amount of \$78,002.82 which will be paid through the General Fund.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund: 1020 General Fund
Organization/Activity: 12010 Fire Stations
Department: 10 Fire Department
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: 540045 Uniforms & Protective Clothing
Amount: \$78,002.82

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this motion authorizing the purchase of firefighter protective clothing from Casco Industries, Inc., as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Price Sheet