



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting April 15, 2025

DATE: April 15, 2025

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

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Purchase of Firefighter Protective Clothing for the Corpus Christi Fire Department

CAPTION:

Motion authorizing the purchase of 88 replacement and 52 new pieces of firefighter protective clothing (coats and pants) for the Corpus Christi Fire Department from Casco Industries, Inc., of Houston, Texas, through the BuyBoard cooperative, for \$224,309.40, with FY 2025 funding in the amount of \$224,309.40 from the General Fund.

SUMMARY:

This motion authorizes the purchase of a total of 140 pieces of replacement and new firefighter protective clothing from Casco Industries, Inc., of Houston, Texas, through BuyBoard Cooperative, for \$224,309.40. 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.

CCFD will purchase 44 replacement bunker coats and 44 replacement bunker pants for current firefighters. CCFD will also purchase 26 new bunker coats and 26 new bunker pants for cadets who will be graduating and going to the field.

CCFD currently has 455 firefighters that are issued this bunker gear to accomplish their duties safely and effectively. In addition to the 455 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 local and state procurement requirements.

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The table below provides Casco Industries, Inc.’s cost savings through the BuyBoard Cooperative. When compared to the HGACBuy Cooperative pricing, the City receives cost savings of 24.04% or \$70,996.80.

Description	BuyBoard	HGACBuy	Variance
Casco Bunker Gear Cost	\$224,309.40	\$295,306.20	\$70,996.80

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 2025 is an amount of \$224,309.40 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: \$140,994.48

Fund: 1020 General Fund
Organization/Activity: 12030 Fire Training
Department: 10 Fire Department
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: 540045 Uniforms & Protective Clothing
Amount: \$83,314.92

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this motion authorizing the purchase of 88 replacement and 52 new pieces of firefighter protective clothing (coats and pants) for the Corpus Christi Fire Department from Casco Industries, Inc., as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Price Sheet