



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting June 28, 2022

DATE: June 28, 2022
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Robert Rocha, Fire Chief
RRocha@cctexas.com
(361) 826-3935

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

Inspection, Cleaning & Repair of Bunker Gear for CCFD

CAPTION:

Motion authorizing a three-year service agreement with Gear Cleaning Solutions, LLC, of Dallas, Texas, for the inspection, cleaning, and repair of bunker gear for the Corpus Christi Fire Department, in an amount not to exceed \$237,600.00, with FY 2022 funding of \$19,800.00 from the General Fund.

SUMMARY:

This motion authorizes a three-year service agreement for the inspection, cleaning and repair of firefighter bunker gear, or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), for the Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD). It is critical to provide safe and adequate PPE to protect firefighters during any emergency, not only for their operational effectiveness, but also for their health and safety.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Bunker gear, or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), is essential for firefighters when responding to emergency situations. Each firefighter is assigned their own set of PPE. PPE is designed to protect firefighters from serious injuries or illnesses resulting from contact with fire, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and environmental hazards. CCFD has 431 full sets of bunker gear. CCFD also has 220 bunker coats and 156 bunker pants that are loaners.

While on a call, there is a possibility that the PPE will be damaged or contaminated. Damaged and contaminated PPE does not provide acceptable protection for firefighters, and if worn damaged or contaminated, can leave them vulnerable to harm. It is extremely important that after each call, PPE be properly inspected, cleaned, and if damaged, repaired to ensure its effectiveness in protecting the wearer as well as to ensure that CCFD can extend its service life if possible.

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) Code 1851 addresses the standard for the use, care,

inspection, and maintenance of PPE for structural firefighting. NFPA 1851 also explains that exposure reduction is required at any scene where firefighters have been exposed to products of combustion to the extent that a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) is necessary. Exposure reduction requires that the PPE be inspected and washed after every fire. Additionally, the standard requires that the PPE also go through an advanced cleaning and inspection once a year. In order to comply with NFPA 1851, PPE is picked up at the stations and thoroughly inspected to identify any necessary maintenance. Once inspected all PPE is thoroughly cleaned and if necessary, maintained. All PPE is returned within 48 hours of pick up. In order to comply with exposure reduction, CCFD personnel is on call to wash and inspect PPE after every fire. If maintenance is required after the event of a fire, Gear Solutions is called to repair the PPE.

Although Gear Cleaning Solutions, LLC. is headquartered in Dallas, they have an office based out of San Antonio. The cleaning and inspections that the vendor provides is the advanced cleaning and inspection and is scheduled and required by the National Fire Protection Agency standard code 1851. The vendor also is called if PPE requires maintenance after a fire. However, if they are called, their response time is within 48 hours. Per NFPA 1851, advanced cleaning (done once a year) and exposure reduction (which requires cleaning after every fire) is required. The vendor schedules PPE pick-up from each station to do thorough inspections and cleanings and returns the PPE within 48 hours.

PROCUREMENT DETAIL:

Procurement conducted a competitive Request for Bids process to obtain bids. The City received one responsive, responsible bid, and staff is recommending the award to Gear Cleaning Solutions, LLC. Gear Cleaning Solutions, LLC. Is the incumbent from the previous three-year contract. Contract pricing for this proposed contract has reduced by 39% from the current contract with Cleaning Solutions, LLC. by restructuring items to be serviced and inspected. The current contract is set to expire in July 2022.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is to use PPE without proper inspection, cleaning, and repair; however, doing so may risk the life of the firefighter.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact for CCFD in FY 2022 is approximately \$19,800. The remaining cost of \$217,800 will be budgeted in the annual budget process.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund:	1020 General Fund
Organization/Activity:	12010 Fire Stations
Mission Element:	093 Emergency Response
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A
Account:	540045 Uniform & Protective Clothing
Amount:	\$19,800

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the motion authorizing a three-year service agreement with Gear Cleaning Solutions, LLC of Dallas as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Bid Tabulation
Service Agreement