



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting September 23, 2025

**DATE:** September 23, 2025

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<p><b>Three-year service agreement with Qwake Technologies' C-THRU System for the Corpus Christi Fire Department</b></p>
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### **CAPTION:**

Resolution authorizing a three-year service agreement with Qwake Technologies, of Austin, Texas, for the purchase of Qwake Technologies' C-THRU system which includes hardware, software, mobile applications, cloud storage, and video and audio streaming services for real-time firefighting visualization and navigation for the Corpus Christi Fire Department in an amount up to \$299,345.68, with FY 2025 funding of \$171,745.68 from the General Fund.

### **SUMMARY:**

This resolution authorizes the execution of a three-year service agreement with Quake Technologies, Inc. of Austin, Texas, to purchase Qwake Technologies' C-THRU system which includes web applications, mobile applications, software, cloud storage, and video and audio streaming services. This technology is for real-time firefighting visualization and navigation for the Corpus Christi Fire Department.

### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

The Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) is dedicated to enhancing firefighter safety and operational efficiency amid increasingly hazardous fire conditions largely due to faster, hotter, and more toxic fires. These fires elevate occupational risks, including cancer, which is the leading cause of firefighter mortality. To address these challenges, CCFD attended a demonstration of Qwake Technology's C-THRU system at the 2024 Fire Department Instructors Conference. CCFD also met with Qwake Technology's Chief Executive Officer at the conference to gather more information on the C-THRU system. Subsequently, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that it would be conducting a study of the C-THRU

system and released an application for fire departments across the nation to apply to in order to be part of the DHS study. CCFD was one of 80 fire departments nationwide that was selected to participate in the 2025 DHS Science and Technology Directorate study that evaluated Qwake Technologies' C-THRU system. As part of the study, Qwake Technology provided CCFD with the C-THRU system as well as a training team so that CCFD could use the equipment on-site.

CCFD's testing iteration demonstrated C-THRU's ability to reduce primary search times by up to 50%, enhance navigation through hands-free operation and exit navigation, and minimize exposure to carcinogenic environments. Firefighters reported improved coordination and decision-making, supported by real-time video streaming to incident commanders via Qwake's proprietary web and mobile applications, embedded device software, and cloud infrastructure. These findings align with positive feedback from fire departments like the San Diego Fire Department and the Boston Fire Department, which both noted C-THRU's potential to revolutionize firefighting operations.

The C-THRU system is a helmet-mounted augmented reality device that integrates thermal imaging, computer vision, edge detection, and cloud-based connectivity to provide real-time visualization and navigation in fire and smoke-filled environments. This technology is worn by firefighters and significantly improves their situational awareness and safety. The real-time video streaming from the helmet-mounted augmented reality vehicle is streamed to incident commanders on scene which allows further situational awareness and safety.

The proposed three-year service agreement with Qwake Technologies, Inc., will enable CCFD to join Qwake's Pioneer Program as one of 10 initial adopter fire departments. This program includes access to sixteen C-THRU devices, four Command Consoles, web and mobile applications, embedded software, cloud software and storage, and integrated video streaming capabilities. The C-THRU technology comes with a one-year warranty through the proposed three-year service agreement with Qwake Technologies, Inc.

Participation in this agreement ensures CCFD's input shapes final refinements for Qwake's Pioneer Program and also secures priority access for CCFD upon commercial release on the C-THRU technology (anticipated by mid-2026). Additionally, it positions the City and CCFD as a leader in adopting innovative firefighting technology. The investment supports CCFD's mission to protect lives and property and aligns with DHS's \$8.4 million investment in C-THRU's development to address critical safety needs. By adopting C-THRU, CCFD will enhance operational outcomes, reduce health risks, and set a precedent for modern firefighting innovation.

Waiting for general availability would result in significantly higher retail costs for the devices and associated services, which would lead to a greater budget impact in the future. Additionally, delaying adoption would limit CCFD's ability to influence final refinements, forgo priority access, and delay the implementation of a proven safety and operational tool, increasing firefighters' exposure to hazardous conditions and hindering the CCFD's mission to protect lives and property.

### **PROCUREMENT DETAIL:**

This procurement is a direct purchase with Quake Technologies, Inc. of Austin, Texas, for Qwake's web applications, mobile applications, embedded device software, cloud software and cloud storage, and interactions among each of these and video and audio streaming from Qwake Devices or Qwake software for the Fire Department.

This procurement falls under a statutory exception within Local Government Code 252.022(a)(7)(A) procurement of items that are available from only one source, including: items that are available from only one source because of patents, copyrights, secret processes, or natural monopolies.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative to approving the three-year service agreement with Qwake Technologies, Inc. is to forgo participation in the C-THRU Pioneer Program and wait for the C-THRU system to become available to the general fire service upon commercial release (anticipated by mid-2026). As a Pioneer Program participant, CCFD secures C-THRU devices at cost, along with access to web and mobile applications, embedded software, cloud services, and integrated video/audio streaming. Waiting for general availability would result in significantly higher retail costs for the devices and associated services, which would lead to a greater budget impact in the future. Additionally, delaying adoption would limit CCFD's ability to influence final refinements, forgo priority access, and delay the implementation of a proven safety and operational tool, increasing firefighters' exposure to hazardous conditions and hindering the department's mission to protect lives and property.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The fiscal impact for CCFD in FY 2025 is an amount of \$171,745.68 from the FY 2025 General Fund for the first year of the three-year service agreement. The remaining amount will be funded through the annual budget process.

## **FUNDING DETAIL:**

Fund:	1020	General Fund
Organization/Activity:	12010	Fire Stations
Department:	10	Fire Department
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A	
Account:	520090	Minor Tools & Equipment
Amount:	\$171,745.68	

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the Resolution authorizing the execution of a three-year service agreement with Quake Technologies, Inc. of Austin, Texas for the Fire Department, as presented.

## **LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Service Agreement  
Price Sheet  
Resolution