

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

02-253

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

AGENDA:

MAY 20, 2002

SUBJECT:

**BOMB TRAILER BID
AWARD**

TYPE:

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

SUBMITTED BY:

**WILLIAM H.
MOULDER
CHIEF OF POLICE**

SYNOPSIS -

The Police Department's Bomb Unit is equipped with a bomb trailer for neutralizing and transporting explosive materials. The structural integrity of the trailer has reached a level below standard for operations. The trailer is over 30 years old, and maintenance and repair costs are increasing. The Purchasing Department mailed out bid specifications, and three vendors submitted proposals. The low compliant bidder is Criminalistics Incorporated (Janet Worsham, President, 7560 North West 82nd Street, Miami, Florida). Criminalistics Incorporated was the second low bidder.

FISCAL IMPACT -

The new trailer will cost the City \$25,995, which will be purchased out of the Equipment Replacement Fund.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

For over 30 years, the Des Moines Police Department has provided service to the metropolitan area in incidents concerning explosives. A critical tool in providing this service is the bomb trailer. The trailer allows bomb specialists to transport and sometimes detonate lethal explosives safely and effectively.

In the last several years, the trailer has required increased maintenance and repair. Currently, the trailer is operating with a bent frame, and the utility doors on the side of the trailer will not close due to structural damage. The integrity of the explosive tube is compromised as a result of years of use. Maintenance of this trailer has become very difficult.

The Police Department submitted bid specifications to the Purchasing Department who solicited proposals from qualified vendors. Three vendors submitted proposals. Evaluations by staff have concluded the low compliant bidder in this matter is Criminalistics Incorporated of Miami, Florida.

Criminalistics Incorporated was not the low bidder. The low bidder in this matter was Hurd Custom Machinery. Unfortunately, this company did not meet specifications in several critical areas: 1) Hurd failed to provide the required documentation to confirm their compliance to specifications. 2) Hurd failed to provide requested technical test data concerning explosive testing of their product. 3) The blast capacity of the Criminalistics trailer is twice as effective as that of the Hurd machine. 4) Trailer suspension data submitted by Hurd has created a lack of confidence with the Bomb Squad that this trailer would provide dependable service for an extended period. 5) Hurd could not provide the required remote control arm critical to safely manipulating delicate explosive devices.
