



Agenda Item:
34B

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 02/06/06
064

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Agenda Item Type: Resolution
No.:

Roll Call

Submitted by: Phillip C. Vorlander, Chief of the Fire Department

SUBJECT—

Utility Vehicle Purchase for Fire Department Medical Director, Bid Number V06-053.

SYNOPSIS—

Approval to purchase one (1) four-wheel-drive utility vehicle from Mid-States Ford, Inc. (M. Perry, President, 1450 E. Highway 6, Waukee, IA 50263), the low bidder, at a cost of \$24,868.00.

FISCAL IMPACT—

The price of the vehicle is \$24,868.00. Funds are available in Fund Code GE001, Organization Code FIR041000, Account Code 544070.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

The City of Des Moines Purchasing Division issued Bid Number V06-053 for the purchase of vehicles for the Des Moines Fire Department. Included in the bid was the addition of a four-wheel-drive utility vehicle for use by the Des Moines Fire Department Medical Director. Twelve vendors were notified and three bids were received and evaluated by the Fire Department. All three bids complied with the specifications and the bid of Mid-States Ford was low.

Most of the light vehicles in the Des Moines Fire Department fleet are purchased as part of the Public Works Equipment Replacement Fund (IS201, PWK010407, 544070). The only exception to date is a four-wheel-drive utility response vehicle assigned to the HazMat Team and paid for out of revenues specified in the 28E Agreements with our customer counties (GE001, FIR040100, 544070). Similarly,

this vehicle is funded, in part, from ambulance revenues. The vehicle would be used by the Des Moines Fire Department Medical Director, Chad Torstenson, M.D. The Iowa Administrative Rules, Section 641.132.0, Off Line Medical Direction, require the Fire Department to employ a Medical Director in order to operate ambulance services and the use of ambulance revenues in this manner is appropriate.

A contract with Dr. Torstenson for Medical Direction services was executed following a Request for Proposal process after the previous Medical Director left Des Moines to practice in another State. Two responses were received in response to the Request for Proposals, but Dr. Torstenson's proposal, in addition to offering a much improved approach to the position and greater involvement with the Department's emergency care delivery system, was much more competitive. While the other proposal would have cost the City in excess of \$56,000 per year, the cost for Dr. Torstenson's service is

estimated at \$16,000 per year. Dr. Torstenson's proposal included an expected stipend that was agreed upon of \$1,000.00 per month and the provision of a vehicle. The vehicle will be used over the term of the agreement. Below are excerpts from Dr. Torstenson's proposal, contract and forward that outline the provision of the vehicle and why he felt he needed a vehicle to adequately perform his role.

1) In his proposal, Dr. Torstenson specified that he be furnished a four-wheel-drive utility vehicle, and this was included in his contract, as follows:

The City shall provide Torstenson with a four wheel drive utility vehicle equipped with emergency radios, warning lights and marked as a Des Moines Fire Department vehicle. The use of the vehicle shall be limited to those times that Tortenson is performing work pursuant to this Agreement. Such vehicle shall at all times be owned by the City and a part of the City's fleet of vehicles. As such, fuel and maintenance for the vehicle shall be provided by the City. Torstenson shall make the vehicle available to the City upon request and the vehicle shall be kept in its original condition except for reasonable wear due to use consistent with this Agreement.

2) In a forward to his proposal, Dr. Torstenson stated:

I feel in order for a medical director to be truly effective he/she must provide real time presence. This presence allows the EMS providers to interact with the medical director in the field and develop a mutually beneficial relationship. As a medical director, this offers the unique opportunity for the medical director to gain experience in the system, recognize capabilities as well as areas for needed education or improvement. To this point, the Des Moines Fire Department has hired a medical director to advise on the practice of prehospital medicine and lend licensure to the practice of this truly unique style of medicine without ever asking this person to "come to work."

3) As part of his proposal, Dr. Torstenson enclosed a chapter from the book Prehospital Systems and Medical Oversight (National Association of EMS Physicians, 2002). Included was this passage:

To accomplish the supervisory activities, the medical director should have direct, round-the-clock access to an emergency response vehicle, which should be clearly marked (and maintained) by the local authorities. Given the unpredictable nature of emergencies, this approach allows for a timely, uninhibited, and authorized response in key situations, at any time of day or night and from any location, including home. The EMS physician must be trained in an emergency vehicle operation course (EVOC) and understand the limits of emergency vehicle operation, both statutorily and technically in certain weather and traffic conditions.

Staff agrees with Dr. Torstenson's assessment that previous medical directors served the City well, but limited their relationships to advising on the practice of prehospital medicine and lending licensure to

the practice. It is believed that Dr. Torstenson's approach will result in substantial improvements to the City's out-of-hospital emergency medical care delivery system. This paired with the facts that the vehicle would be restricted to Dr. Torstenson's use in his capacity as Medical Director and that the total compensation that Dr. Torstenson will receive is much less than other proposals lead staff to recommend the purchase of this vehicle. It has been agreed that the vehicle may be driven to his place of principal employment (Mercy Hospital) in instances when he may be available for fieldwork at the completion of his tour as an on-duty emergency physician. The vehicle also facilitates the Medical Director's participation as part of the Incident Command structure at extraordinary situations such as multiple casualty incidents (MCIs) or a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) event.