

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	January 12, 2015
	Agenda Item No.	35B
	Roll Call No.	<u>15-0049</u>
	Communication No.	<u>15-012</u>
	Submitted by:	John F. TeKippe, Fire Chief

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of awarding protective clothing contract to Sandry Fire Supply, with two (2) additional one-year renewal options, to supply Honeywell-Morning Pride Fire Coats and Pants.

SYNOPSIS:

The Des Moines Fire Department (DMFD) recommends awarding the contract to provide Honeywell-Morning Pride fire protective clothing to Sandry Fire Supply (618 6th Street, DeWitt, IA 52742, owner Bob and Mary Sandry). Sandry Fire was the low compliant bidder in the competitive bidding process. A total of 11 bid packets were mailed, and three (3) bids were received. The approval of this contract is for the on-going replacement schedule of Fire Turnout Gear to maintain NFPA safety compliance and normal wear.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$110,000 annually

Funding Source: FY2015, Operating Budget Organization FD104113, Account 532260 – Safety and Protective Equipment and Clothing. Page 101.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Several manufactures with their respective field sales representatives were invited to discuss fire coat and fire pants features. Globe, Veridian, Morning Pride, Lion, and Inno Tex all participated. Their presentations were thorough and professional. The DMFD identified the priorities to provide the best protection with regards to thermal exposure, breathability, comfort, and durability to best serve the firefighters who fulfill the City’s mission of public safety to the citizens and visitors of Des Moines. Bid specifications were written to a standard to achieve the protective qualities the department requires.

Specifications called for features that provide a precise minimum thermal protection value, both in standard areas and in compression areas, while also maintaining specific breathability requirements. The breathability performance value is necessary for the reduction in stress on a firefighter by allowing body heat to escape through evaporative cooling. Highly breathable garments allow body heat to escape which helps protect firefighters from stress related illness such as a cardiac event, the leading cause of line of duty deaths in the fire service. Thermal protection is particularly important in high compression areas such as the shoulders, chest, and arms where the breathing apparatus presses down and inward on the turnout coat. Due to firefighters crawling, knees are even more critical to provide

the most protection under compression requirements. These are all areas where firefighters are likely to get burned, even through protective clothing.

On October 16, 2014, Bid No. V15-049 was issued and closed on November 16, 2014. Eleven invitations were sent out to respective vendors. Three (3) vendors submitted proposals; Feld Fire Equipment (Veridian gear), Heiman Fire (LION gear), and Sandry Fire Supply (Morning Pride gear).

Non-Compliance

Heiman (LION) and Feld Fire Equipment (Veridian)

- Breathability requirements in two (2) areas - the DMFD specifications called for specific breathable materials to be used. Heiman (LION) substituted non-breathable materials in certain critical areas. For the previously mentioned reasons on breathability it is a critical non-compliant issue.
- Conductive and Compressive Heat Resistance (CCHR) - in four (4) critical areas of the spec DMFD lists a minimum standard of a CCHR rating. The submitter must provide documentation of meeting those standards from an ISO rated lab. These requirements in the spec are critical performance requirements due to the heat transfer in compressed areas of the firefighters gear to include chest, shoulders, elbow and most important knees. Heiman (LION) and Feld Fire Equipment (Veridian) were unable to provide those specifications when requested and required by the specifications.
- Design concept -DMFD specifications call for a continuous and unbroken moisture and thermal barrier. Heiman (LION) coat violates this section on the specifications.
- Drag Rescue Device (DRD)-is a built in feature that assists in rescuing down firefighters. Heiman (LION) and Feld Fire Equipment (Veridian) did not comply with the DMFD specifications. This is a critical safety feature. It needs to be simple to install and deploy.
- Liner Attachment-DMFD specifications called for no use of zippers or hook and loop (Velcro) due to bulk, stiffness, longevity, and ease of repairs. Heiman (LION) did not meet this requirement.
- Sleeves- DMFD spec called for a one (1) piece sleeve design to offer only one (1) seam exposure that is located under the arm. Seams are avenues for unwanted heat transfer points and durability issues. Neither Heiman (LION) nor Feld Fire Equipment (Veridian) are able to provide this necessary feature.
- Inner and outer wristlets- DMFD specs called for the use of both inner and outer wristlet for the protection of firefighters interface areas with gloves. Neither Heiman (LION) nor Feld Fire Equipment (Veridian) are able to provide this necessary feature.

Both Heiman (LION) and Feld Fire Equipment (Veridian) provided a “clarifications and exceptions” report of variances to the DMFD specifications. Those reports identified the areas where they knew they were non-compliant. DMFD personnel found several other areas that both vendors were non-compliant in. Under review from DMFD staff they were deemed non-compliant and did not serve as to best protect the firefighters and serve the mission.

Compliance

Sandry Fire Supply, LLC with Honeywell-Morning Pride gear was the only fully compliant bid. The other vendors were non-compliant both in sufficient quantities and in critical areas of the specification to no longer be considered.

NFPA and Standardization

NFPA requires PPE to be certified as an ensemble (coat and pant). This is due to different manufactures styles and cuts of their particular brand of clothing. The interface between coats and pants is a critical safety component. Departments cannot mix manufactured garments and remain NFPA compliant.

Standardization would allow the department to control costs and maintain NFPA compliancy. Over the last several years DMFD has been replacing aging or damaged PPE with Morning Pride gear as awarded by past bids. If a damaged pant needs replaced on an individual but the coat was still serviceable we would need to replace both if we utilized another manufacturer to remain NFPA compliant. This would increase cost in the example from \$898.50 to \$2104.50.

Recommendation

Sandry Fire Supply, LLC's bid of \$1,206.00 per fire coat and \$898.50 per replaceable knee fire pants and alternately \$842.75 per non-replaceable knee fire pants from Morning Pride was the lowest compliant bid. This bid is in the best interests of the DMFD for safety, NFPA compliance, and standardization.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: June 13, 2011

Roll Call Number: [11-1010](#)

Action: Bids from the following:

- (C) [Sandry](#) Fire Supply (Mary Sandry, President) for an annual contract with two (2) additional one-year renewal options to furnish fire service bunker coats and pants for use by the Fire Department, annual estimated cost \$100,000. (Thirteen bids mailed, four received). ([Council Communication No. 11-365](#)) Moved by Moore to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: May 18, 2009

Roll Call Number: [09-0879](#)

Action: Bids from the following:

- (H) [Sandry](#) Fire Supply for an annual contract with two (2) additional one-year renewal options to furnish fire service bunker coats and pants to be used by the Fire Department, \$42,810. (Ten bids mailed, five received). Moved by Kiernan to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Cownie.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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