



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Kevin Richardson, Fire Chief

**Date:** October 10, 2023

**Reference:** Consider approval to purchase replacement Fire Personal Protective Ensembles, Bunker Gear, for Structural Fire Fighting (coat, pants, escape belt/harness, and suspenders) from North American Fire Equipment Company through Buy Board contract #698-23 in the amount of \$75,264.00 as budgeted; and authorizing the City Manager to sign any necessary documents.

**2040: Sustainable Government**

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### **Introduction:**

The Fire Department is requesting to purchase Lion Group, Inc. Fire Personal Protective Ensembles, Bunker Gear, for Structural Fire Fighting (coat, pants, escape belt/harness, and suspenders) from North American Fire Equipment Company (NAFECO) under Buy Board contract #698-23, as budgeted in FY23-24.

### **Background:**

Per National Fire Protection Association Standard 1851 chapter 10.1.3, Structural firefighting ensembles and ensemble elements shall be retired, no more than 10 years from the date the ensembles or ensemble elements were manufactured, or when damaged beyond repair.

With recent research of cancer and its impact to the fire service, it is believed that being able to remove the dirty and contaminated gear as soon as possible after the fire will reduce the exposure to cancer causing substances. It is the department's mission to limit firefighter's exposure to these contaminants, which have been found to lead to various types of cancer in the fire service.

The Fire Department conducts a Personal Protective Equipment Risk Assessment every two years as required by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. Based on the risk assessment, the Lion Group Inc. V-Force Model Personal Protective Ensemble meets or exceeds the requirements needed in design, performance and testing of protective ensembles and ensemble elements that provide head, limb, hand, foot, torso and interface protection for firefighters and other emergency service responders. NAFECO is the sole supplier of Lion Group, Inc. Personal Protective Equipment in the state of Texas.

At this time, each operational firefighter is issued two sets of Personal Protective Ensembles to ensure they can safely remove and clean contaminated ensembles following a Structural Fire or other contamination incident. This safeguards the ability to don an uncontaminated set during further emergency response calls and provides time for proper cleaning of contaminated Bunker Gear.

The Fire Department budgets annually to replace Personal Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting as required by NFPA 1851 Chapter 10 Retirement, Disposition and Special Incident Procedure.

**Benefit to the Community:**

The overall protection and safety of firefighting personnel by providing adequate protective clothing during fire and other hazardous situations. This puts us in compliance with industry standards.

**Legal Review:**

N/A

**Fiscal Impact:**

Funds for replacement of Fire Personal Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting are budgeted in the Fire Department FY23-24 budget.

**Recommendation:**

The Fire Department recommends approval.