



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Kevin Richardson, Fire Chief

Date: October 11, 2022

Reference: Consider approval to purchase replacement of 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 #603-20 in the amount of \$67,200.00, as budgeted; and authorizing the City Manager to sign any necessary documents.

2040: **Pillar 0: Sustainable City Government**

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 #603-20, as budgeted in FY22-23.

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.

Background:

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, which states “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 departments mission to limit the exposure to these contaminants which have been found to lead to various types of cancer in the fire service.

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

Benefit to the Community:

Protecting the overall health and safety of firefighting personnel by providing adequate protective clothing during fire and other hazardous situations and providing adequate time to properly decontaminate that equipment is critical to ensuring exceptional emergency response to the community. Approval of this agenda item also ensures 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 Departments FY22-23 budget in the amount of \$67,200.00.

Recommendation:

The Fire Department recommends approval.