



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Kevin Richardson, Fire Chief
Casey McCaughan, Fleet Services Manager

Date: May 23, 2023

Reference: Consider award of Bid #Q-0523-01 and purchase of an Incident Management Freeway Blocker Truck for the Coppell Fire Department from Royal Truck & Equipment Inc., in the amount of \$129,795.00; and authorizing the City Manager to sign any necessary documents.

2040: Sustainable Government

Introduction:

According to the Emergency Responder Safety Institute, each year in the United States approximately 16,000 fire department vehicles are struck by other vehicles while working emergency scenes on roadways. In 2022, vehicles struck and killed 51 emergency responders and injured 550 firefighters while working various types of roadway incidents.

The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize the purchase of an Incident Management Blocker vehicle for the Coppell Fire Department CFD. The “Blocker” unit will provide a dedicated safety apparatus specifically to manage traffic, including the addition of a Crash Attenuator that is designed to minimize the impact of an out-of-control vehicle.

The City of Coppell has over 40 miles of road with 40 MPH plus speed limits. Between 2016 – 2020 the CFD responded to approximately 1,276 calls for service to emergency incidents on/near a roadway. It is the 2nd most frequent emergency call type. Currently, it is the policy of the CFD to position front line emergency apparatus as a “blocker” to protect the incident scene, including response personnel, the public, and apparatus from being struck by approaching vehicles.

Background:

The proposed Blocker unit will respond in addition to conventional apparatus but will park upstream from all other apparatus protecting the incident site. The intent of this apparatus is multifold – to reduce risk to emergency responders working on roadways, to prevent expensive fire apparatus from being struck, and reduce maintenance/repair time and cost of front-line equipment after a collision.

Blocker units are designed to absorb an impact and dissipate the energy in a way that improves the likely outcome for the vehicle that crashes into it. Firetrucks are currently being used as blockers at roadway accidents to protect emergency responders. In 2022, an estimated 2,500 vehicles nationwide crashed into firetrucks parked as blockers. This “Blocker” concept and philosophy are similar to what is currently being used by transportation authorities to improve safety during roadway construction and maintenance activity.

The Coppell Fire Department submitted a Grant Application to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) for the 2021 Incident Management Freeway Blocking Equipment Call for Projects. The proposed grant included a funding split 80% NCTCOG, 20% Coppell.

-11/01/2021	CFD Grant Proposal submitted
-01/13/2022	CFD Grant Award Notification received
-12/20/2022	Coppell signed MOU with TXDOT
-12/13/2022	Coppell accept funding: City Council Action Approved
-01/13/2023	Coppell receives deposited funding \$89,867.00

This project was recommended for funding at an 80/20 split. The cost of the Blocker Truck has increased since the submittal of the grant 16 months ago, thus the departmental cost share is higher than the original 20% split. The grant portion of the funding is \$89,867.00.

On May 2, 2023, a Request for Bid (RFB) was sent out by the City of Coppell’s Procurement Services Department under Bid#Q-0523-01. There was one return from the RFB by Royal Truck & Equipment Inc. in the amount of \$129,795.00.

Benefit to the Community:

The blocker truck will improve first responder and citizen safety as well as protect apparatus by providing a barrier during emergency incidents on the roadway.

Legal Review:

The Procurement Division has determined that this is an appropriate method of contracting with the vendor.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact is \$39,928.00; \$30,000.00 as budgeted and the remainder from undesignated fund balance.

Recommendation:

The Fire Department recommends approval of this item.