

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: August 12, 2019

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore and Members of the City Council

From: Damon Dequenne, Assistant City Manager
Trey Mayo, Fire Chief
Jerry Bates, Purchasing Director

Council Action Requested:
Resolution Awarding Purchase Order for Retrofit of Hazmat 1

Strategic Focus Area: Service Excellence
Strategic Objective: Ensure Service Delivery Efficiency and Effectiveness
Strategic Plan Action Item: No
Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

The Winston-Salem Fire Department (WSFD) is requesting approval to retrofit the former HazMat 1 unit #1507, a 2005 Spartan/Crimson to meet current department requirements. Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) are the single most critical component of firefighters’ protective ensemble. The fire department has upgraded to the latest standard of SCBA in an effort to increase capacity and provide firefighters more working and escape time in hazardous environments. The current breathing air compressor, when tested under realistic operating conditions, will only fill eight SCBA bottles to 5,500 psi before having to run 40 minutes for the compressor to catch up and begin filling bottles again. The initial alarm to a building fire places 28 firefighters on the scene in SCBA, with 34 spare bottles. This provides capacity for about 40 minutes of working time before the initial delivery of breathing air is depleted. Air Resource 1 can deliver an additional 60 bottles to the scene, which provides approximately 40 more minutes of working time. In summary, the WSFD’s capacity to provide breathing air is completely depleted in less than an hour and a half.

The toxic products of combustion present today require SCBA to be worn not only during fire attack, but also during overhaul operations. Extended or major operations place an additional strain on breathing air supplies. The only other mobile air compressor in the county is owned by Forsyth County Fire Department, which is a countywide resource not regularly staffed for City use.

Committee Action:

Committee	Finance 8/12/19	Action	Approval
For	Unanimous	Against	

Remarks:

Unit 1507 was not built to meet WSFD specifications and because of its inadequate size and poor layout, HazMat 2, a repurposed Pepsi truck, must be maintained to carry additional equipment. Unit 1507 would be refurbished and fitted with a mobile breathing air compressor and repurposed as a mobile air and rehabilitation truck that could support the department's modern SCBA and provide for the health and safety of fire personnel. The ability to support major or extended fire, rescue, and hazmat operations will be well provided for by the new compressor. Firefighter rehab will be provided at a level accepted as the industry's best practice

In researching businesses to retrofit Unit 1507, staff found one company that would be able to provide the complete turnkey operations needed and required for retrofitting HazMat 1. Safe Air Systems, Inc., located in Randleman, NC, submitted quotation #0159475 to complete the retrofit per specifications in the total amount of \$109,991. It is recommended that a purchase order be awarded to Safe Air Systems, Inc. to complete the retrofit of Unit 1507 per specifications in the total amount of \$109,991.

The City's FY 2019-20 capital equipment budget includes sufficient funds for this purchase which will be financed through the North Carolina Municipal Leasing Corporation. Funding for the lease payments is available in the General Fund FY 2018-19 budget.

M/WBE COMMENT: There are no known M/WBE businesses that provide these services.

Workforce Demographics: See Exhibit A