



**TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
STAFF REPORT**

Board Meeting Date: September 3, 2024

DATE: July 1, 2024
TO: Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners
FROM: Jay Cwiak, Division Chief
Phone: (775) 326-6060 Email: jcwiak@tmfpd.us
THROUGH: Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the purchase of one hundred twenty sets (120) of structural firefighting protective clothing for career employees from AllStar Fire Equipment Inc, 2552 Barrington Court, Hayward, California 94545, in the amount of \$429,738 pursuant to NRS 332.115 (b), Exemptions to Requirements for Competitive Bidding. (All Commission Districts) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

This Staff Report is requesting the approval to purchase one hundred twenty sets (120) of structural firefighting protective clothing for career employees from AllStar Fire Equipment Inc, 2552 Barrington Court, Hayward, California 94545, in the amount of \$429,738 pursuant to NRS 332.115 (b), Exemptions to Requirements for Competitive Bidding.

PREVIOUS ACTION

July 6, 2021, The Board of Fire Commissioners approved the purchase of one hundred ten sets (110) of structural firefighting protective clothing for career employees from All Star Fire Equipment Inc, 2552 Barrington Court, Hayward, California 94545, in the amount of \$276,540 pursuant to NRS 332.115 (b), Exemptions to Requirements for Competitive Bidding.

May 21, 2024, the Board of Fire Commissioners approved the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (FY24/25) budget which included \$400,000 of funding for the purchase of new personal protective equipment (PPE), which includes structural fire protective clothing, in the Capital Projects Fund.

BACKGROUND

The Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, through approval of the FY24/25 budget, has funds allocated for the purchase of personal protective equipment for career staff. Utilizing a portion of this budget to replace aging structural fire protective clothing (turnouts) will enable personnel to operate safer and more effectively throughout the district. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of

Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting, requires that structural turnout gear shall be retired when the garment is beyond repair and no longer able to pass an NFPA 1851 Advanced Inspection, or ten years from the date of manufacture, whichever comes first. The district purchased approximately 70 sets of turnouts in 2012 and 110 sets of turnouts in 2014, which means nearly half of all turnouts are nearing their end of life, and many are becoming unrepairable.

Turnouts, along with other personal protective equipment (PPE), are the primary component of the firefighters' safety equipment. The PPE ensemble does many things to protect the user from injury during fire suppression and rescue activities by providing a high level of protection from many types of harmful situations. PPE is required to protect the user from thermal injury, using a built-in vapor barrier to protect against steam injuries during fire suppression activity. It is made of a very durable outer shell material that is able to protect against cuts and abrasion during use in various fire and rescue activities. The PPE has specialized equipment built into the jacket known as a Drag Rescue Device (DRD) to aid in the rescue of a firefighter from harm's way should they be unable to remove themselves.

With the constant exposure of the PPE to products of combustion in fires, dirt, water, fluids found in auto accidents, and normal wear and tear, these garments need regular maintenance to remove products harmful to the wearer. After a structure fire, PPE is typically soaked and covered with soot – and must be cleaned immediately to reduce exposure to carcinogens and harmful contaminants. The district provides two sets of turnouts to keep the firefighter “in service” during the process of cleaning the contaminated set. When general cleaning performed in-house is not enough to remove harmful products or the PPE gets damaged (cuts, tears, etc.), it necessitates sending the garment to a professional maintenance company that specializes in cleaning, testing, and repair of the turnouts. In this case, the second set of PPE is essential for personnel to be able to wear due to the time involved in shipping the PPE to the maintenance company for care. It is not cost or time-effective to have PPE in stock to issue during maintenance of the firefighter's primary set because of all the varying sizes of personnel and fitment required for safety reasons.

The specification for the PPE that the district has selected was developed over different trial periods in which several brands and material types were field tested and reviewed. The Lion brand was determined to have a product that was preferable, better fitted, and better performing than other brands tested. AllStar Fire Equipment is the regional supplier for Lion and, therefore, is the sole source supplier for this equipment.

FISCAL IMPACT

This purchase in the amount of \$429,738 was anticipated and included in the District's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Fund Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of staff that the Board of Fire Commissioners approve the purchase of one hundred twenty sets (120) of structural firefighting protective clothing for career employees from AllStar Fire Equipment Inc, 2552 Barrington Court, Hayward, California 94545, in the amount of \$450,000 pursuant to NRS 332.115 (b), Exemptions to Requirements for Competitive Bidding.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion could be:

"I move to approve the purchase of one hundred twenty sets (120) of structural firefighting protective clothing for career employees from AllStar Fire Equipment Inc, 2552 Barrington Court, Hayward, California 94545, in the amount of \$429,738 pursuant to NRS 332.115 (b), Exemptions to Requirements for Competitive Bidding."