



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
April 26, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
 Submitted by: Abraham Roman, Fire Chief  
 Subject: Contract: Fire Aside for Defensible Space Inspection Software

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments with Fire Aside (Contractor) to provide a mobile vegetation inspection software solution for the Fire Department (Department) from May 18, 2022 to May 17, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 with an option to extend for an additional four years, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$160,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The term of this contract is from May 18, 2022 to May 17, 2024 in the amount of \$70,000 for the base term, which includes a \$20,000 one-time configuration and development fee and an annual \$25,000 subscription and maintenance fee. There is an option to extend for four additional years at the \$25,000 annual fee for a total term of six years. Funding is budgeted in 164-72-745-000-0000-000-422-612990 (Measure FF).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Department is working diligently to expand and meet the community need and expectation for comprehensive vegetation management inspections in all of the Very High Fire Severity Zone 2 and 3 properties. This new mandate equates to an 83% (+7,184) increase in inspections from previous years. The Department's current inspection software and the other leading fire inspection software available is not capable of meeting the business and operational needs of the Department. Furthermore, Fire Aside offers features that no other known software provider offers that will greatly improve communication between the City and homeowners and result in higher compliance with post inspection instructions.

BACKGROUND

Fire Aside is a Northern California business that has developed a unique mobile vegetation inspection software called Defensible Space Inspections (DSI) that helps fire agencies connect with the community & increase resistance to, and resilience from wildfire. DSI has created a user-friendly interface, resident friendly reports that enhance resident engagement, an automated reporting tool that provides recommendations to residents in a simple, easy to follow guide following an inspection and a powerful

backend database that fire agencies can use to understand the built environment and the particular risk profile it creates for wildland fire spread. All of this helps the community increase its defensible space and create more hardened (wildfire resistant) homes. In more detail, DSI:

- Dramatically improves the collection activities for defensible space inspectors. It offers a single platform that is unique in gathering home hardening characteristics of homes and allows inspectors to add detailed attributes including GPS location and photo documentation to enhance the homeowners understanding of the suggested improvements or identified problems.
- Following an inspection, residents receive a customized and prioritized home hardening and defensible space checklist that is automatically produced and shared with the property owner. This guide coaches a resident on where to focus efforts to improve their resilience to wildfire.
- Is the only service with integration to multiple 3rd party systems including ZoneHaven (Alameda County-adopted evacuation software), Chipperday (community chipping), and others.
- Is the only service that provides analytics on resident interactions and issue remediation behavior.

DSI is the first and only technology available that ensures the resident is supported from pre-inspection through abatement of hazards. The Department has met with other major providers of fire prevention inspection software and discovered that all of them are built for the inspection of structures – which is completely different than the vegetation management inspections that the City is mandated to perform. Fire Aside is the only provider that offers a program with the features and capability listed above.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the action requested in this report.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The City conducted an industry survey of available products and concluded that Fire Aside offers a unique solution that aligns with the emergent need of the City to create more defensible space and hardened homes in the City's wildland urban interface areas.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Abraham Roman, Fire Chief, (510) 981-3473

Attachments:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

Contract: Fire Aside for Defensible Space Inspection Software

WHEREAS, the Department is working diligently to expand and meet the community need and expectation for comprehensive vegetation management inspections in all of the Very High Fire Severity Zone 2 and 3 properties, and

WHEREAS, this new mandate equates to an 83% (+7,184) increase in inspections from previous years, and

WHEREAS, Fire Aside offers features that no other known software provider offers that will greatly improve communication between the City and homeowners and result in higher compliance with post inspection instructions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments with Fire Aside to provide a mobile vegetation inspection software solution for the Fire Department from May 18, 2022 to May 17, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 with an option to extend for an additional four years, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$160,000.