



Office of the City Manager

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CONSENT CALENDAR  
May 25, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Liam Garland, Director, Department of Public Works

Subject: Purchase Order: Braun Northwest for One (1) 2021 North Star 155-1 Type 1 Ambulance

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution satisfying requirements of City Charter Article XI Section 67.2 allowing the City to participate in HGACBuy contract bid procedures, and authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase order for one (1) 2021 North Star 155-1 Type 1 Ambulance with Braun Northwest, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$245,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The purchase of one (1) North Star 155-1 Type 1 Ambulance will not exceed \$245,000 and includes CA tire fees and sales tax. Funding for this purchase will be provided initially through the Equipment Replacement Fund 671. Insurance will repay the fund the balance of the purchase price, less a deductible amount and actual cash value reimbursement. The deductible, approximately \$25,000, is available in the Equipment Replacement Fund through the Fire Department's vehicle replacement contributions. The actual cash value of approximately \$39,000 was reimbursed to the City through the insurer.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

This purchase will replace ambulance unit number 1989 which sustained permanent damage due to an electrical fire on April 24, 2019. The ambulance is a critical emergency medical response vehicle utilized throughout the City to maintain the community's health and welfare. The new replacement will include a compact design and is custom-built for quality, durability, and maximum functionality. The aluminum construction is designed to reduce weight and provide superior crash protection. In addition, the Fire Department is piloting a "Safety Model" ambulance that is designed to provide enhanced employee and patient safety in the event of a vehicle collision, including roll overs. Vehicle design includes five-point safety restraints for caregivers and patients in the rear of the ambulance, rounded corners inside the vehicle, and equipment storage compartments with multiple points of access facilitating caregivers' ability to get needed supplies quickly without having to move around the patient compartment unrestrained.

This purchase supports the City's Strategic Plan Goal of creating a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared City.

### BACKGROUND

If a purchase request exceeds \$25,000, the Department of Finance, General Services Division solicits bids or "piggybacks" off competitively bid contracts to ensure the City's departments is receiving the best pricing.

The City of Berkeley has been a no-cost member of Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGACBuy), a Cooperative Purchasing Program that has offered inter-local purchasing since 2008. HGACBuy provides procurement services that make the government procurement process more efficient by establishing competitively priced contracts for good and services made available to local governments nationwide.

Products and services offered through HGACBuy have been subjected to a public competitive bid process. On April 3, 2020 HGACBuy released an Invitation to Submit a Competitive Bid, No. AM10-20 for Ambulances, EMS and Other Special Service Vehicles. The solicitation was nationally advertised for thirty-four days. On May 7, 2020, twenty-four proposals were submitted and reviewed by the Houston-Galveston Area Council who selected Braun Northwest, Inc. as one of the best responsive and responsible proposers to meet the specifications, thusly awarding Contract No. AM10-20.

HGACBuy charges an order processing fee for each sale successfully completed through their contract. For this purchase, a flat fee charge of \$1,000 will be paid directly to HGACBuy by Braun Northwest, Inc.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

For every fleet purchase, Public Works staff researches the feasibility and availability of fully electric vehicles and hybrid-electric powertrains to support the City's transition off fossil fuels. Staff research found that there are no viable electric or hybrid electric ambulances for consideration. There are several companies in early development stages internationally.

In addition to the lack of readily available and tested electric ambulances, there is no current infrastructure at the Fire Stations to support electric charging of vehicles. The new ambulance will be run on 100% renewable diesel. Usage of renewable diesel also complies with the City's Fossil Free Recommendations. This purchase aligns with the 2020 Municipal Fleet Electrification assessment that recognized the lack of commercially available and viable medium and heavy-duty vehicles. The Municipal Fleet Electrification Assessment proposed to install 51 charging stations with 100 chargers and upgrade all 129 vehicles in the light duty fleet to EV by 2030. To date, PW has installed 31 charging stations and 61 chargers. In the next two years, another five

charger installations are planned and contingent on an additional budget allocation of \$850,000, primarily for installations at the Corporation Yard. In 2020, the fleet included 46 hybrids and 15 plug in hybrid-electric vehicles. Since then, the fleet has added 6 EV sedans, 11 hybrid SUVs for the Police Department (PD), and 4 hybrid pickup trucks. In the next FY, the City will add another 11 EV sedans. Public Works is on track to complete conversion of sedans and SUVs to EVs by 2028, two years ahead of the assessment's schedule. In addition, the City fleet has reduced its consumption of traditional gasoline by 33% from a high in 2000, in part due to some of the changes above and because so much of the fleet runs on renewable diesel. Twenty one of last year's vehicle replacements were either hybrid or run on renewable diesel.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Ambulance replacement is an essential vehicle utilized to meet the goals required of the Fire Department. The City requires safe and reliable emergency medical response vehicles to maintain the community's health and welfare.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None. Vehicle replaced identified as a physical loss due to permanent damage. City will be reimbursed through insurance claim.

CONTACT PERSON

Greg Ellington, Superintendent, Department of Public Works (510) 981-6469

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

PURCHASE ORDER: BRAUN NORTHWEST, INC. FOR ONE (1) NORTHWEST 155-1, TYPE 1 AMBULANCE

WHEREAS, one (1) replacement North Star 155-1 Type 1 ambulance is needed by the City of Berkeley Fire Department to replace unit 1989 permanently damaged per insurer; and replenish inventory of well-maintained safe and dependable emergency medical response vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Charter section 67.2 allows the City to purchase goods without undergoing a competitive bid process if the City uses pricing obtained by another entity through a competitive bid process; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020 HGACBuy released an invitation to submit a Competitive Bid, No. AM10-20 for Ambulances, EMS & Other Special Service Vehicles. The solicitation was released for approximately thirty-four days and twenty-four bids were submitted and reviewed. On May 7, 2020 Houston Galveston Area Council selected Braun Northwest, Inc. as the best most responsive bidder to meet the specifications, thusly awarding Contract No. AM10-20; and

WHEREAS, HGACBuy contact bid procedures satisfy the procurement requirements of the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, funds in the amount of \$245,000 are available in the FY21 Equipment Replacement Fund 671 to be reimbursed by insurance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a purchase order for one Northwest 155 Type 1 Ambulance with Braun Northwest, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$245,000.