

CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
July 5, 2017	

TO: Mayor Benetti and City Councilors

FROM: Mark Anderson, Fire Chief

THROUGH: Rodger Craddock, City Manager

ISSUE: Use of FEMA grant funds to purchase Self-contained Breathing Apparatus

BACKGROUND:

The Fire Department has 36 Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for firefighting. These SCBAs provide clean compressed air to personnel operating in smoke and toxic environments. The SCBAs were purchased with grant funds in 2004. The bottles, by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, have a 15-year life cycle; and they will become non-compliant within the next two years. The cost of new SCBA units are roughly \$5,500-6,000 each. In an effort to reduce the financial burden to the City, the Fire Department staff applied for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant. In May of 2017, the City was awarded a grant to replace the SCBAs; and on May 16th, the City Council gave staff the approval to accept the grant funds.

Fire Department staff conducted an evaluation of the five (5) SCBA brands that are currently on the market. Staff evaluated the different models using a variety of criteria including:

- Comfort, fit, and ergonomics
- Ease of use and visibility
- Quality of communication in noisy environments
- Ease of cylinder change
- Reliability and ease of maintenance
- Quality of construction
- Customer service and support

In summary, the staff selected the SCBA manufactured by MSA as their first choice. The evaluation found the comfort and visibility of the MSA to be far superior to the other models. The MSA has a 15-year warranty for manufacturer defects and workmanship. Routine maintenance is simple and easy to perform. In general, the quality of the MSA seems better and more durable than its competitors. All SCBA manufacturers use alkaline AA disposable batteries to power the electronics. Department staff currently replace 576 batteries in SCBAs each year at a cost of roughly \$250 annually. The MSA is the only manufacturer that offers a lithium Ion rechargeable battery pack as a cost saving alternative. Seawestern Firefighting Equipment in Kirkland, Washington is the sole authorized distributor of MSA products in the State of Oregon. The Fire Department solicited four (4) competitive written quotes from vendors.

Manufacturer	Distributor	Cost
Deltair	Life Safety Corp.	\$ 178,200.00
Drager - PSS 7000	Curtis	\$ 179,600.00
MSA - G1	Seawestern	\$ 214,740.00
Scott - X3	Shur-sales	No bid

The MSA was not the lowest price. However, based on the results of the equipment evaluation and comments from staff, the Fire Department believes that it is in the best interest of the City to purchase the MSA – G1 SCBAs. This recommendation is consistent and in accordance with the purchasing contract rules outlined in section 7, item (b).

ADVANTAGES:

This purchase would provide the equipment necessary for the Fire Department to stay compliant with NFPA and OSHA respirator fitness standards for an additional 15 years.

DISADVANTAGES:

None Identified

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of 36 MSA “G1” SCBA systems is \$214,740 (5,965 each). The FEMA grant award was for \$212,572.00. As a condition of the award, the City is required to contribute a 5% cost match (\$10,628). This was budgeted for in the City’s 2016/17 budget.

The total of the 5% match and the FEMA funds amount to \$223,200. With the remaining balance of \$8,460, the City will be asking FEMA for permission to purchase additional items that will assist in the respirator fitness program. These additional items include extra masks to allow each member of the Department to have their own issued equipment, fittings to ease connection to the filling station, a rechargeable battery bank with spare batteries, and brackets to allow mounting the larger SCBA bottles on the trucks.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Staff is requesting that Council approve the purchase of 36 MSA “G1” SCBA from Seawestern Firefighting Equipment Company at the cost of \$214,740. Funding for this purchase to be 95% FEMA grant and 5% from the City of Coos Bay General Fund.