

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:**           **APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF SELF-CONTAINED  
BREATHING APPARATUS FOR THE AMES FIRE  
DEPARTMENT**

**BACKGROUND:**

Self-contained breathing apparatus SCBA's are commonly recognized as the air pack worn by firefighters to enter hazardous environments such as structure fires or hazardous materials incidents. Currently the Fire Department is utilizing SCBAs that are approximately 15 years old, which is the designated maximum lifetime of the cylinders. In preparation for the replacement of these breathing apparatus, a total of \$290,350 was designated under a Capital Improvement Project. The approved 2014/15 operating budget for the Ames Fire Department includes \$145,175 for half of the SCBA's and the 2015/16 approved budget has the additional half of \$145,175 designated. This cost also includes hardware and software needed to support and maintain the equipment.

Two leading manufacturers of SCBA's were invited to demonstrate their respective SCBA's and to provide technical information to four members of the Ames Fire Department SCBA Team. Firefighters were allowed opportunities to "test" the SCBA's and provided valuable input to the Ames Fire evaluators. The team was able to narrow down the features and provided the summary of the evaluations to the City of Ames Finance Department, who then assisted Fire Department personnel with creating a bid proposal.

This bid is for the purchase of forty-one (SCBAs) and required accessories for the Fire Department. The bid documents call for partial equipment to be delivered prior to June 30, 2015 and the remaining items to be delivered after July 1, 2015.

The bid was divided into three categories: (1) bidding information and award form; (2) general requirements; and (3) specifications and requirements. Three submitted bids were received and subsequently evaluated by Fire and Finance Department personnel based on meeting the minimum requirements set forth in the bid, the base bid, the delivery time, ongoing costs, and any potential trade-in value.

**The following bids were received on June 2, 2015:**

| <b><u>Bidder</u></b>                               | <b><u>Bid Amount</u></b> | <b><u>Salvage Value</u></b> |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ed M. Feld Equipment Co. of Carroll, IA            | \$ 278,037               | \$ 3,260                    |
| MES Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. Fremont, NE | \$ 273,758               | \$ 0                        |
| Sandry Fire Supply LLC of DeWitt, IA               | \$ 311,110.35            | \$ 7,500                    |

Staff have reviewed the three bids and concluded that two of the vendors—Ed M. Feld Equipment Co. and MES (Municipal Emergency Services, Inc.)—have met the bid's minimum requirements. Sandry Fire Supply LLC did not meet the minimum bid requirements due in part to non-NFPA compliant SCBAs (they are not anticipated to become NFPA compliant until later this year).

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve a contract with Municipal Emergency Services in an amount not to exceed \$273,758.
2. Approve a contract with Ed M. Feld Equipment Co. of Carroll, IA.
3. Direct staff to revise the RFP and go back out for bids.
4. Reject all bids and delay the replacement of the self contained breathing apparatus for the fire department.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Currently the Fire Department is utilizing SCBAs that are approximately 15 years old, which is the designated maximum lifetime of the cylinders. The approved 2014/15 operating budget for the Ames Fire Department includes \$145,175 for half of the SCBA's, and the 2015/16 approved budget also has \$145,175 for a combined total of \$290,350.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving award of contract for the SCBA's to Municipal Emergency Services in the amount not to exceed \$273,758.