

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR DEPUTY MAYOR FOR FIRE & RESILIENCE DECISION – DMFD14

Title: Replacement of essential rescue equipment – Renewal of Rapid Intervention Sets

Executive Summary:

London Fire Brigade fire appliances carry essential powered cutting equipment known as Rapid Intervention Sets to facilitate with the extrication of casualties from road traffic collisions. Report LFC-0076x to the London Fire Commissioner seeks approval to place orders under the Vehicles and Equipment contract with Babcock Emergency Services, for the replacement of the London Fire Brigade's Rapid Intervention Sets, with associated vehicle modifications, at a cost not exceeding £1,250,000, to be funded from within the approved capital programme for 2018/19.

Decision:

The Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience approves the award of a contract for the provision of Rapid Intervention Sets to Babcock Emergency Services Limited, within the parameters set out in report LFC-0076x to the London Fire Commissioner.

Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Date:

20/11/18

PART I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. Rapid Intervention Sets (RIS) are essential equipment used for cutting and managing vehicles involved in road traffic collisions to facilitate the extrication of casualties. RIS are stored on frontline appliances and are powered by combustion engines. The current suite is coming to the end of its serviceable life and is due for renewal.
- 1.2. Report LFC-0076x to the London Fire Commissioner outlines the process that has been undertaken to identify the most appropriate replacement equipment and seeks permission to place orders and draw-down on funds from the previously agreed £1.558m by the Resources Committee of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA)—the Commissioner’s predecessor fire authority for Greater London (report FEP 2508).
- 1.3. There have been significant technical advances in this type of equipment in recent years, enabling the Commissioner to undertake a procurement tendering process to identify a battery-powered RIS. This is to:
 - Reduce the risk of high-pressure oil injection to operational personnel
 - Cut emissions in line with the Commissioner’s and Mayor’s sustainability objectives
 - To facilitate the safe use of the RIS in confined and unventilated spaces, without exposing any of LFB’s personnel or members of the public to additional harmful exhaust fumes.

Tendering process

- 1.4. Officers identified the user specifications for the required equipment, enabling the Commissioner’s vehicles and equipment contractor, Babcock Emergency Services, to undertake the tendering process on behalf of the LFB under the extant vehicles and equipment contract.
- 1.5. Babcock Emergency Services identified two bidders that met the requirements and subsequently informed LFB they have a preferred bidder. The quote from the preferred bidder for 168 RIS sets sits within the identified budget and is valid until mid-November 2018.
- 1.6. Report LFC-0076x and its confidential appendix provide details of the procurement process.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. This equipment replacement will ensure that firefighters will continue to be able to perform efficiently and effectively in safely managing fast-moving incidents requiring ‘cutting and spreading’ equipment at the roadside.
- 2.2. Having no external high-pressure hydraulic pipes or connectors, the risk to operational personnel of high-pressure oil injection is greatly reduced from that of the equipment currently in use. As external generators and high-pressure hoses are not required for the proposed equipment, the cost of this replacement has been reduced from the original estimate of £1,558,000 down to £1,250,000, which includes the fire appliance modifications. This represents an estimated saving of £308,000. Additional benefits provided by the proposed equipment include:
 - This equipment is easier and more flexible to use as a result of not having the restrictions of the connecting high pressure pipework and generator

- There are no harmful exhaust fumes which aids the use in confined and unventilated spaces
- Being self-contained smaller power tools, they do not have separate power pumps and hoses. This gives the benefit of being able to be used from the cage of an aerial appliance providing enhanced access at height outside of buildings
- The equipment has no exhaust emissions and each are lighter than the existing Rapid Intervention Set tool providing manual handling benefits
- This purchase sees the added benefit of a dedicated cutter in addition to the combi-tool. The dedicated cutter is an additional tool to what is currently carried on our frontline pumping appliances, delivering greater operational capability.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. The Public Sector Equality Duty – and the potential impacts of this decision on those with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation) – has been considered by the London Fire Commissioner and the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience.
- 3.2. The proposed tools are smaller, lighter and easier to handle, supporting all staff types' utility.
- 3.3. During the contract term, the contractor is forbidden for discriminating against any person on grounds of sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief or age contrary to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010- whether through its own actions, or the actions of an agent. The Contractor is also required to comply with the terms of the Commissioner's Equalities Protocol, as set out in Schedule 13 of the contract. Compliance is a condition of the contract.
- 3.4. Further, the contractor is required to comply with the race equality duty, the disability equality duty and the gender equality duty set out in the Equality Act 2010 as if the Contractor were a public authority within the meaning of the legislation, and also to comply with the provisions of section 404 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 ('the 1999 Act') (promoting equality of opportunity for all persons, irrespective of their race, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion) as if the contractor were a functional body within the meaning of the 1999 Act.

4. Other considerations

Procurement and Sustainability

- 4.1. The tendering process required bidders to set out the sustainability benefits of their bids. These impacts have been included in the tender evaluations. The outcomes established that the proposed new equipment supports both the LFB sustainability objectives and the London Mayoral priorities. The selected tools utilise recyclable materials wherever possible; the proposed arrangements offer the option to return the tools at the end of their 10-year life where they will be recycled or where possible refurbished and donated to charities.

London Safety Plan

- 4.2. This proposal supports the 'Responding in an emergency' theme of the London Safety Plan and its aim – 'Providing the right response', ensuring that firefighters are equipped with the right tools, that are best able to provide the fastest and safest support at the incident ground.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. The Commissioner's capital budget requirement for this equipment has reduced from £1,558,000 to £1,250,000, following the removal of the external generator and high-pressure hose from the specification by purchasing a battery powered RIS, resulting in a saving of £308,000.
- 5.2. There is an allowance of £1,250,000 in the 2018/19 capital fleet and equipment replacement budget for the purchase and installation of the RIS equipment. If external borrowing was used to finance this expenditure, the annual debt charges would be £160,000, based on a 10-year life and an interest rate of 2.8%.
- 5.3. No additional funds from the Greater London Authority are sought or required; there are no direct financial implications for the GLA.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1. Under section 9 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, the London Fire Commissioner (the "Commissioner") is established as a corporation sole with the Mayor appointing the occupant of that office. Under section 327D of the GLA Act 1999, as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2017, the Mayor may issue to the Commissioner specific or general directions as to the manner in which the holder of that office is to exercise his or her functions.
- 6.2. By direction dated 1 April 2018 (MD 2260), the Mayor set out those matters, for which the Commissioner would require the prior approval of either the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience (the "Deputy Mayor").
- 6.3. Paragraph (b) of Part 2 of the said direction requires the Commissioner to seek the prior approval of the Deputy Mayor before "[a] commitment to expenditure (capital or revenue) of £150,000 or above as identified in accordance with normal accounting practices...".
- 6.4. The Deputy Mayor's approval is required for the London Fire Commissioner to place orders with Babcock Emergency Services for rapid intervention sets and vehicle modifications, at a total cost not exceeding £1,250,000. The statutory basis for the actions proposed in this report is provided by Section 8 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, which states that fire and rescue authorities must make provision for the purpose of rescuing people in the event of road traffic accidents and protecting people from serious harm, to the extent that it considers it reasonable to do so, in the event of road traffic accidents in its area. In making this provision a fire and rescue authority must, amongst other things, secure the provision of the equipment necessary efficiently to meet all normal requirements. The London Fire Brigade legal team have confirmed that the proposals in this report are in line with the provision of services under the Commissioner's contract with Babcock Emergency Services.

Appendices and supporting papers:

Report to the London Fire Commissioner LFC-0076x (redacted)

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and will be made available on the GLA website within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** This form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after approval or on the defer date.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? YES

If YES, for what reason:

The bidder should only be named after contract award and the expiration of the cooling off period, so as to enable any competitive negotiations with other suppliers should the award not proceed as planned.

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring): 31 December 2018

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form – YES

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to
confirm the
following (✓)

Drafting officer

Andrew Nathan has drafted this report with input from the LFC and in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service

Tom Middleton has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience for approval.

✓

Advice

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal.

✓

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on 12 November 2018.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

I confirm that financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this report.

Signature

M. D. [Signature]

Date

20.11.18

