LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

# Forcible Entry Equipment (FEE) – Hydraulic Door Opener Renewal

| Report to | Date |
|---|---|
| London Fire Commissioner | 12 February 2019 |
| **Report by** | **Report number** |
| Assistant Director, Technical and Commercial | LFC-0115y |

Protective marking: **OFFICIAL**
Publication status: Published with redactions


## Summary
The forcible entry equipment (FEE) hydraulic tools on frontline appliances are coming to the end of their serviceable life and are due for renewal. This report outlines the process that has been undertaken to identify the most appropriate replacement equipment, seeks permission to place orders and draw down on funding allocated within the FLEET capital budget.


## Recommended decision
1. The London Fire Commissioner place orders under the vehicles and equipment contract with Babcock Emergency Services for the replacement of 120 frontline forcible entry tool sets for a sum not exceeding that detailed in confidential Appendix A.

2. Allocate funds under the vehicles and equipment contract with Babcock Emergency Services for a sum not exceeding that contained in confidential Appendix A, to allow for minor vehicle modifications to safely stow the new tool set on frontline appliances.

## Background
1. The current FEE hydraulic tools are coming to the end of their serviceable life and with the advances in security door technology are no longer fit for purpose, this is because they are unable to breach modern high security domestic door sets.

## Tendering process
2. An operational requirements specification was submitted to Babcock and they subsequently worked with the LFB Technical and Service Support workstream lead to review and determine the Brigade's key operational requirements for forcible entry tools. These requirements include:

   - The ability to breach door sets constructed to modern security standards, currently PAS 24:2016.

   - To be portable, and no more than a one-person carry.

- To be used in confined space without producing fumes.

- To be stowed on the Brigade’s frontline pumping appliances without requiring major modifications.

3. Babcock drew up a procurement strategy which included an evaluation process that was agreed with LFB officers before going out to tender. The procurement evaluation scoring consisted of weight score split between to categories, the weightings were 65% Technical and 35% Financial evaluation.

4. To assist Babcock Emergency Services in identifying equipment that would meet the necessary requirements, LFB officers took part in physical user testing of equipment offered up by the bidders under the tendering process.

5. Following the competitive tender process and evaluation of the tenders, Babcock Emergency Services identified only one bidder that met the requirements by passing all functional tests and subsequently informed us they have a preferred bidder. The quote from the preferred bidder for 120 forcible entry equipment sets sits within the identified budget and is valid until 31 March 2019. Details of the quote are given in confidential Appendix A.

6. On top of the costs of purchasing the replacement equipment, there will be additional costs to make minor modifications to the frontline Series 3 Mercedes appliances, this is in order to ensure safe carriage of the new equipment. The cost of these modifications is also given in confidential Appendix A. There are no modifications required for Series 2 Mercedes pumping appliances.

7. There will be no change to the revenue budget for these equipment slots, as the ongoing maintenance costs for these will remain the same as the existing equipment slots.

**Training**

8. All of the tools evaluated during the tender process operate in a similar way to the current FEE therefore it is anticipated that the training implications are minimal and should consist of local familiarisation only.

**Equipment**

9. The identified equipment that preferred bidder offers to provide is made up of:

   - A hydraulic hand-pump.
   - A length of hydraulic hose covered with a sleeve to reduce the risk of high-pressure oil injection injuries.
   - A door opener tool.

   The total of 120 equipment sets are to be issued as follows – 103 frontline; four to the current training provider Babcock Training; four to the Fire Service College for Emergency Fire Cover Crew training and nine as reserves to support defects and routine maintenance.

**Benefits**

10. The equipment produces a greater ‘spreading force’ than the current tool.

11. The equipment is capable of breaching modern high security domestic door sets which are constructed and installed to the PAS 24:2016 standard which have been fitted in numerous properties throughout Greater London.

12. The equipment can be used in confined spaces without the need to consider respiratory protection for operational staff or casualties.

13. The equipment remains a hand operated tool which meets our equalities and manual handling requirements and produces no emissions.

**Replacement**

14. The identified equipment is very similar to the operation of the current FEE, so there are no perceived operating training needs other than crews familiarising themselves.

**Finance comments**

15. The finance comments are contained within confidential Appendix A.

**Workforce comments**

16. There are not perceived to be any issues with this equipment that will adversely or otherwise affect the workforce, the representative bodies are aware of the identified equipment and if any issues regarding its introduction should occur, they will be addressed via the extant joint health and safety forum (BJCHSW).

**Legal comments**

17. 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.

18. By direction dated 1 April 2018, 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").

19. 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*…".

20. The Deputy Mayor's approval is accordingly required for the London Fire Commissioner to place orders with Babcock Emergency Services for forcible entry sets and vehicle modifications.

21. The statutory basis for the actions proposed in this report is provided by Section 7 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, which states that fire and rescue authorities must secure the provision of the equipment necessary efficiently to meet all normal requirements. The proposals in this report are in line with the provision of services under the Commissioner's contract with Babcock Emergency Services.

## Sustainability implications

22. The identified FEE sets are emission free which supports both the LFC target to reduce our CO2 emissions by 60% from 1990 levels by 2025.

23. Babcock is contracted to manage disposal of the old sets in line with the waste management hierarchy.

## Equalities implications

24. The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the London Fire Brigade when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

    a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful.

    b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

    c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

25. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

26. The equality impact assessment (EIA) undertaken within the tender bids evaluation process, found that the proposals in this report will not have an adverse effect on any persons with a particular characteristic. This was based on the following; the Output Based Specification (OBS) was written with the end users needs in mind. In particular, the aspect of manual handling was assessed against the user group and the identified equipment is both lighter and easier to handle than the equipment currently in operational use. Therefore, the EIA determined that this equipment would be able to be operated by all staff in that user group, irrespective of whether or not they have a protected characteristic.

27. In addition, the Babcock contract requires Babcock and any sub-contractor they may engage, to conform to equality legislation and LFB equalities protocol. Babcock also assess all of their providers approach to equality and ensure they are satisfied that they meet appropriate protocols, prior to them listing those companies as approved providers. Therefore, it is considered that there is an appropriate approach to equalities right through the supply chain in respect of this procurement.

## List of Appendices

| Appendix | Title | Protective Marking |
|---|---|---|
| A. | **Tender evaluation results**<br>In commercial confidence. | Official-Sensitive (Commercial) |

LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

**APPENDIX** A

**Confidential Appendix A** Tender evaluation and cost breakdown
**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

**43 Commercial interests**

(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

1. Following evaluation of the tenders, Babcock Emergency Services subsequently informed us that Holmatro provided the only tool to meet the required technical standards. Therefore, Holmatro have been identified as the preferred bidder with a quote of £167,830.80 for 120 FEE sets. The quote from Holmatro is valid until 11th June 2019.

2. The identified equipment that preferred bidder offers to provide is a Holmatro HDO100 door opener which is detailed as follows;

   - Dedicated hydraulic hand pump connected via hydraulic hose to a hydraulically operated door opening tool capable of breaching high security door sets constructed and installed to PAS24:2016 standards.

   - a protective sleeve to reduce the risk of high-pressure oil injection injuries.

3. On top of the costs of purchasing the replacement equipment, there will be additional costs to modify the series 3 Mercedes pumping appliances in order to ensure safe carriage of the new equipment. This is estimated to be a further £15k, taking the total costs of the project to just under £183k.

4. There was a £650.00 cost against the evaluation testing stage of the project, and there will also be a £4,595.80 Pre-Delivery Inspection (PDI) cost upon delivery of the tool to Babcock. The PDI includes inspecting, testing and repacking the items before final delivery to LFB. The total cost of the asset purchase under the FLEET capital budget is £173,076.60.

5. The equipment maintenance slot price will remain the same at £49.00 per tool set per annum, totalling £5880 for 120 tool sets. This cost is already included in the V&E Contract and does not form part of this budget request.

**Finance Comments**

5. This report requests the approval for the replacement of the forcible entry hydraulic door opener (FEE) at a cost not exceeding £173k with an additional £15k to allow for the modification of the series 3 Mercedes pumping appliance stowage.

6. The approved fleet capital replacement programme includes the budget of £173k in 2019/20 to replace the forcible entry hydraulic door opener (FEE). This allocation was originally £183k, but was reduced when the preferred bidder's tender price became known. If this purchase is funded from borrowing and based on a useful life of 10 years,

the annual revenue debt charges will be £22k, being £17k for the repayment of borrowing and £5k in interest payments at a projected rate of 3%.