



**THE PORT
OF LOS ANGELES**
Executive Director's
Report to the
Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2012

FROM: PORT POLICE

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ - GRANT OBLIGATION REQUEST TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF RIGID-HULL INFLATABLE VESSELS TO SUPPORT POLICE OPPOSITION TRAINING AT THE REGIONAL MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

SUMMARY:

Staff requests approval of Contract No. 39623 to Maurer Marine of Costa Mesa, CA, for purchase of two rigid-hull inflatable vessels to train students at the Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Training Center (MLETC). These vessels will be used as "offender" boats during training exercises where officers learn the tactics of capturing and boarding fast, evasive vessels, and taking subjects into custody. The MLETC will offer State of California, Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) approved coursework to public safety personnel who operate in a port or maritime environment.

The contract total for the two vessels is \$323,092. Funds are available in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget, and the vessels will be fully reimbursed under the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Port Security Grant Program (PSPG), Round 8 and the State of California, 2008 Proposition 1B Grant Program (Prop 1B) California Port and Maritime Security Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2008. Vessel operation and maintenance costs are estimated at \$10,000 per vessel annually or \$20,000 total. As indicated in the Board of Harbor Commissioners' Information Memo of November 11, 2011, the procurement of these vessels will allow the training facility to become fully operational, at which time vessel maintenance and other operating costs will be funded by student tuition to meet the Harbor Department's strategic goal of full cost recovery for the facility.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Board of Harbor Commissioners:

1. Find that utilization of the bidder prequalification process would, in regards to this purchase, benefit the City of Los Angeles pursuant to Section 375 of the Los Angeles City Charter and Section 10.18 of the Los Angeles City Administrative Code.
2. Award Contract No. 39623 between the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department and Maurer Marine for the purchase of two, fully-equipped, rigid-hull inflatable vessels in the amount of \$323,092, including tax and delivery;

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3. Authorize the Executive Director to execute the Contract for an on behalf of the Board; and
4. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

DISCUSSION:

Background – The newly established MLETC, in collaboration with Federal, State, and local agencies, provides waterborne law enforcement agencies with uniquely standardized coursework designed to provide law enforcement officers the specialized knowledge, skills, and abilities they need to safely and competently do their job in a maritime environment. These boats will be used as “offender” boats for controlled pursuits to train officers how to execute law enforcement vessel stops and apprehension techniques. These boats are used in the exercises due to the fact that they are lighter, faster and more maneuverable than a typical patrol vessel.

The MLETC offers a variety of courses, including small boat tactics. More specifically, the MLETC Intermediate Course is designed to provide the student with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to enforce safety/security zones around high value assets (HVAs). This requires the student to learn how to operate vessels in high speed and close quarter maneuvers to interdict a threat to HVAs they are assigned to protect. The rigid-hull inflatable boats (RHIB) that have been specified are lighter weight, more maneuverable, and offer greater performance than standard training platforms. These attributes make them ideal platforms to practice interdiction techniques.

Selection – During 2009, MLETC instructors identified types of vessels best suited for the training program. In addition to determining the appropriate platform for officer patrols, research determined that a platform to simulate “offender” vessels was, in most instances, a smaller, more nimble vessel with characteristics of the RHIB. Research included data from real occurrences, such as the attack in the Gulf of Aden and recent “Panga” contraband landings along the Southern California coastline. After extensive research the selection was narrowed to rigid-hull vessels, which are durable and inexpensive to maintain.

Port Police submitted Requisition No. Z-12-078 to the Contracts and Purchasing Division (CPO) on January 13, 2012, for the purchase of two rigid-hull inflatable vessels. Formal Bid No. F-800 was published by CPO on January 20, 2012. As allowed in Los Angeles City Charter, Section 375 and Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.18, the Harbor Department required a prequalification questionnaire to be submitted by all bid responders simultaneously with the bidding documents. This was done to ensure bid responders possessed the experience and qualifications necessary to meet the bid requirements for purchase of these vessels. Bids closed on January 27, 2012, and one bid was received.

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The procurement of these vessels is being accelerated in an effort to make the training facility fully operational and begin FLETC and State of California POST certified classes for outside agencies. This has been made possible due to the availability of approximately two million dollars in grant funds that became un-appropriated as the result of the identification of an internet-based solution to the Emergency Notification System grant project that originally required a significant hardware investment. This internet-based solution freed up funding that will be used to accelerate what is identified in the Board Information Memo as Phase 2 of the Training Center Development. This phase includes procurement of the training vessels and completion of a second classroom. Further, this approach to reprogram grant funds is approved by the Central California Area Maritime Security Committee, Executive Steering Committee who oversees PSGP project selection for the Los Angeles /Long Beach port-region. Most important this approach is consistent with the Harbor Department's grants guiding principle of a zero tolerance to give back grant funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is approval to award a contract for the purchase of two rigid-hull inflatable training opposition vessels for use in training students at the Regional MLETC. As an administrative activity, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Article II, Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

ECONOMIC BENEFIT:

This Board action will have no employment impact in the five-county region.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the proposed contract for the purchase of two rigid-hull opposition vessels for maritime training operations will be 100% grant reimbursable through the PSGP, Round 8, at an amount of \$242,319 and the 2008 State of California Proposition 1B Grant Program at an amount of \$80,773. These vessels have been budgeted for in the FY 2011/12 CIP budget in the amount of \$323,092 (including tax and delivery). Vessel operation and maintenance costs are estimated at \$20,000 annually for both vessels. FY 2011/12 funds in the amount of \$323,092 are available in Capital Account 59994, Center 1179, Program 641, Job Facility 636-00, and Work Order 25135.

The proposed action would obligate \$323,092 or nearly 6% of the unobligated (not yet committed) amount outstanding of \$5.3 million related to both these grant programs. If the proposed action is not approved, the Harbor Department would potentially be required to de-obligate grant funds and return the unused portion back to the grantor.

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CITY ATTORNEY:

The Office of the City Attorney has reviewed and approved the contracts as to form and legality.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Board of Harbor Commissioners' Information Memo dated November 11, 2011
2. Formal Bid F-800, Contract 39623
3. Bid Recap

FIS Approval: EF (initials)
CA Approval: JH (initials)



RONALD J. BOYD
Chief of Port Police

for 
JOHN M. HOLMES
Deputy Executive Director

APPROVED:


GERALDINE KNATZ, Ph.D.
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