



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** March 9, 2010

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Administration Division, Fire Department

**SUBJECT:** Purchase Order For Fire Department Breathing Air Compressor

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council find it in the best interest of the City to waive the bidding process as provided in Municipal Code Section 4.52.070(l) and authorize the General Services Manager to issue a purchase order to Bauer Compressors in the amount of \$50,144.18 to replace the Fire Department's main breathing air compressor.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Fire Department's primary breathing air compressor is located at Fire Station One, 121 W. Carrillo Street. The compressor requiring replacement was manufactured by American Bristol Breathing Air Systems and purchased in 1999 for \$27,434. The compressor was in serviceable order prior to being placed in storage during the recent remodel of Station One. After reinstallation, it was determined that the compressor had suffered a malfunction in the central operating unit and would not function correctly. A replacement operating unit was sought, but was found to be unavailable because the manufacturer is no longer in business, having been purchased by Scott/Tyco in 2002.

The Fire department is currently using a mobile air compressor to fill self-contained breathing cylinders, but it lacks the capacity to recharge large amounts of air bottles in the case of long duration, high intensity events. Staff is recommending that the normal bidding procedures be waived and the City purchase and install a Bauer Unicus III air compressor because:

- A) A dependable source providing predictable volumes of breathing air is a critical need for firefighting and emergency services (including Harbor Patrol)
- B) A same source maintenance contract can be established for both the mobile and the stationary units through Bauer Compressors, resulting in cost savings from both machines being serviced at the same time by one technician
- C) Bauer Compressors has a unit located in Los Angeles, California, available for immediate installation, with minimal freight charges
- D) Vendor is offering training on site for fire department operators

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Following Council's approval of a mid-year appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2010 budget, there are sufficient funds in the Fire Department budget to purchase the breathing air compressor.

**PREPARED BY:** Dean Sylvies, Operations Division Chief

**SUBMITTED BY:** Andrew DiMizio, Fire Chief

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office