



ANTHONY C. MARRONE
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

*"Proud Protectors of Life,
the Environment, and Property"*

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(323) 881-2401
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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November 06, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

APPROVAL OF SOLE SOURCE ACQUISITION OF A BELL 412 EPX HELICOPTER FROM BELL TEXTRON INC. AND APPROVAL OF AN APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT FOR FY 2024-25 (ALL DISTRICTS) (4 VOTES)

SUBJECT

The Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (District) is requesting Board of Supervisors' (Board) approval for the sole source purchase of a 412EPX helicopter from Bell Textron Inc. (Bell). This purchase exceeds the \$250,000 capital asset threshold established by the Board and requires Board approval to move forward with the acquisition.

The District also requests Board approval of an appropriation adjustment to transfer \$18.6 million from the District's Helicopter Accumulated Capital Outlay (ACO) Fund - Committed for Program Expansion to the District's Helicopter ACO Fund Capital Asset - Equipment appropriation for this purchase.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1. Authorize the Internal Services Department (ISD), as the County Purchasing Agent, to proceed with the sole source acquisition process for the District for the purchase of one Bell 412 EPX helicopter, at an approximate cost of \$18.6 million, including sales tax.
2. Approve a Fiscal Year 2024-25 Appropriation Adjustment to transfer \$18.6 million from the District's Helicopter ACO Fund - Committed for Program Expansion to the District's Helicopter ACO Fund Capital Assets - Equipment appropriation for the purchase of a Bell 412 EPX helicopter.
3. Find that this purchase is exempt from the provision of the California Environmental Quality Act

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On October 13, 2016, the District presented to the Board an “Analysis of Current Wildland Firefighting Aircraft Program and Other Aircraft Types” (Analysis). The purpose of the Analysis was to evaluate and provide strategic replacement and expansion recommendations for the District’s aircraft program related to effective wildland fire suppression while maintaining full capability to complete all other aviation-related missions.

Phase One involved evaluating aerial resources to support the District’s year-round operations. Phase Two was a four-year acquisition plan starting in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 aimed at replacing the District’s aging aircraft. Phase Two was partially implemented with the purchase of two S-70i Firehawks in 2017, which entered service in 2020. Due to the COVID pandemic and economic uncertainty, the purchase of two additional S-70i Firehawks and Bell 412s was postponed.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the District to re-engage in Phase Two of the aircraft replacement schedule. The District’s current fleet of five Bell 412 helicopters includes two HP model aircraft that have been in service for over 30 years and have accumulated an average of 9,250 hours of flight time. By 2029, two EP model helicopters will be 23 years old at an average of 5,500 hours per aircraft. Helicopters with high flight hours result in an increased need for maintenance, obsolescence of parts, and airframe fatigue. Furthermore, this purchase helps address the delays in the District’s helicopter fleet to meet the ever-increasing emergency response challenges associated with protecting lives and property.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the recommended actions is consistent with the County’s Strategic Plan North Star 3.G. Internal Controls and Processes, by continually maximizing revenue, managing, and maximizing County assets, measuring impact and effectiveness of our collective efforts, and enhancing County’s fiscal strength through long-term planning.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The District, as a Special District, is funded independently from the County’s General Fund, and relies primarily on property tax revenue to provide essential fire protection and life safety services.

Sufficient funding is available in the District’s Helicopter ACO Fund FY 2024-25 Final Adopted Budget for this purchase and approval of the appropriation adjustment will transfer \$18.6 million from the Fire Department Helicopter ACO Fund - Committed for Program Expansion to the Fire Department Helicopter ACO Fund Capital Assets - Equipment appropriation to fully fund the purchase of a Bell 412 EPX helicopter. District funds were accumulated in the Helicopter ACO Fund’s reserves over multiple fiscal years to facilitate the purchase of new helicopters.

There is no impact to net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Bell 412 helicopter has been part of the District’s fleet for over 30 years and can fly all the missions identified in the Analysis. The benefit of the Bell aircraft is its one-third hourly operating

costs when compared to the Sikorsky S-70. The mixed fleet allows critical maintenance of the Sikorsky S-70 and ensures that the District will have capable aircraft available if a manufacturer or the Federal Aviation Agency grounds a specific airframe.

On October 16, 2001, the Board adopted a policy whereby County departments must obtain Board approval to purchase equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater prior to submitting their requisitions for purchasing.

As this is a commodity purchase via ISD, a Sole Source Board notification and the Sole Source checklist are not required.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

This acquisition will not have a significant effect on the environment; and therefore, this acquisition is exempt from CEQA, pursuant to Section 15061 (b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

This is a sole source commodity purchase under the statutory authority of the County Purchasing Agent. The sole source purchase will be requisitioned through, and accomplished by, the County Purchasing Agent in accordance with the County's Purchasing and Contracting policies and procedures.

Helicopter mission equipment conversion work will be obtained through a separate and competitive solicitation process, in accordance with County's Purchasing and Contracting policies and procedures, with approval to be made by your Board at a later date.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The new Bell 412EPX helicopter will enhance the District's fleet of multi mission aerial firefighting helicopters, as detailed in the Analysis Phase One and Phase Two reports. This advanced aircraft will enhance operational capabilities to address both current and future mission needs. It is critical for the District's ability to effectively carryout fire suppression, disaster response and recovery, and life-saving responses throughout Los Angeles County.

Furthermore, the District has had a long history of successful operation with Bell helicopters for firefighting, rescue operations, and emergency medical services. Their maintenance and operating costs are reasonable, making them a cost-effective choice for the District. The District is confident that acquiring this Bell helicopter will provide reliable and efficient performance, further enhancing operational capabilities and improving service to the community.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by your Honorable Board, please instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to return the adopted stamped Board Letter to the following:

Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
Executive Office - Business Operations

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

11/6/2024

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Attention: Marissa Martin Jensen, Administrative Services Manager II

1320 North Eastern Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90063

Marissa.MartinJensen@fire.lacounty.gov

Internal Services Department

Purchasing and Contracts Services

Attention: Gerald Plummer, Division Manager

1100 North Eastern Avenue, Suite 102

Los Angeles, CA 90063

GPlummer@isd.lacounty.gov

The District's contact may be reached at (323) 881-6173.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony C. Marrone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ANTHONY C. MARRONE

FIRE CHIEF

ACM:rg

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Internal Services Department

October 01, 2024

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

FIRE DEPARTMENT

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. PLEASE CONFIRM THE ACCOUNTING ENTRIES AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR HER RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFORE

2024-25

4 - VOTES

SOURCES		USES	
FIRE DEPARTMENT HELICOPTER A.C.O. FUND BR5-3017 COMMITTED FOR PROGRAM EXPANSION DECREASE OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE	18,600,000	FIRE DEPARTMENT HELICOPTER A.C.O. FUND BR5-FR-6030-40730 CAPITAL ASSETS - EQUIPMENT INCREASE APPROPRIATION	18,600,000
SOURCES TOTAL	\$ 18,600,000	USES TOTAL	\$ 18,600,000

JUSTIFICATION

This budget adjustment reflects the use of obligated fund balance Committed for Program Expansion from the Fire Department Helicopter Accumulated Capital Outlay (A.C.O.) Fund to the Capital Assets – Equipment appropriation to purchase a Bell 412 EPX helicopter.

Jessica Lindsey

Digitally signed by Jessica Lindsey
Date: 2024.10.01 13:50:07 -07'00'

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

JESSICA LINDSEY, ASM III, FMD

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL (AS REQUESTED/REVISED)

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR--

ACTION

APPROVED AS REQUESTED

RECOMMENDATION
Digitally signed by
Andrea Turner
Date: 2024.10.02
08:51:49 -07'00'

APPROVED AS REVISED

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

BY

Turner

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BY

René
Phillips

Digitally signed by
René Phillips
Date: 2024.10.02
10:13:51 -07'00'

B.A. NO. 035

DATE

10/2/24

DATE