



ANTHONY C. MARRONE
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

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

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

September 30, 2025

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

47 September 30, 2025

Edward Yen
EDWARD YEN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

APPROVE THE SOLE SOURCE ACQUISITION OF TWO SIKORSKY S-70i FIREHAWK HELICOPTERS AND APPROVE APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 (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 acquisition of two Sikorsky S-70i Firehawk helicopters. 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 \$41.5 million from the Fire Department - Measure E Special Tax Fund and \$9.879 million from the Fire Department Helicopter Accumulated Capital Outlay (ACO) Fund – Committed for Program Expansion to the Fire Department Helicopter ACO Fund Capital Asset (CA) – Equipment appropriation for this purchase and authorization for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to obtain tax-exempt financing through third-party financing providers to complete the acquisition of the helicopters.

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 and enter into a purchase agreement with Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, to acquire two Sikorsky S-70i Firehawk helicopters, pilot and aircraft mechanic training, for a total acquisition cost not to exceed \$73.5 million, including estimated tariffs and sales/use taxes.

2. Delegate authority to the Fire Chief, or his designee, to revise the total acquisition cost, up to 10% of the total cost, due to changes in reciprocal tariffs that may be imposed on the import of products from the European Union to the United States with advance notice to the Board.
3. Authorize the Fire Chief or his designee, and ISD as the County Purchasing Agent, to complete and execute all necessary purchasing documents related to the acquisition of two S-70i Firehawk helicopters.
4. Approve the Appropriation Adjustment to transfer \$41.5 million from the Fire Department - Measure E Special Tax Fund and \$9.879 million from the Fire Department Helicopter ACO Fund – Committed for Program Expansion to the Fire Department Helicopter ACO Fund Capital Asset (CA) – Equipment appropriation for this purchase.
5. Authorize the CEO to obtain tax-exempt lease financing in an amount not to exceed \$22.1 million for the acquisition of two S-70i Firehawk helicopters for a lease term that does not exceed ten years and to execute any documents necessary to complete the financing transaction.
6. Authorize the Fire Chief or his designee, and ISD as the County Purchasing Agent, to execute a trade-in or sale of Helicopters 16 and 19, to offset the purchase of the two new S-70i Firehawks.
7. Find that this purchase is exempt from the provision of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Built on the legacy of the Sikorsky UH-60 Blackhawk, the District partnered with Sikorsky in 2000 to create the S-70A Firehawk. For more than 25 years, the District has operated the S-70A Firehawk helicopter, which has proven to be the best multi-mission aircraft on the market. The two original S-70A Firehawk helicopters, acquired in 2000, have surpassed a combined total of 13,000 operational hours. This extensive usage has led to an aircraft availability deficit, primarily due to increased sustainment efforts, critical component obsolescence, and the time-consuming and cost-prohibitive nature of service-life extensions. Additionally, the functional and configurational differences between the S-70A and S-70i Firehawks significantly elevate both initial and recurrent training costs, necessitating additional flight time to maintain proficiency. The District has experienced unique challenges in procuring compliant components due to an exhausted S-70A Firehawk supply chain and diminished manufacturer support for this particular aircraft model. Replacing these two S-70A with the S-70i model aligns with industry best practices and leverages modern avionics, improved safety features, and streamlined maintenance.

In October 2016, the District presented the Board with a comprehensive analysis of wildland firefighting aircraft which provided an in-depth analysis focusing on a four-year fleet replacement plan intended to address the replacement of the District's aging aircraft. The plan was partially implemented when two S-70i Firehawks were purchased in 2017. After the purchase of these two S-70i Firehawks, the purchase plan was suspended due to the District's ongoing fiscal challenges. As a result, the purchase of two additional S-70i Firehawks and Bell 412 EPX's were deferred.

After Measure E passed, the Board approved the purchase of one Bell 412 EPX, on November 6, 2024. That purchase along with the approval of this current request, will align the District's helicopter fleet with the recommendations provided in 2016.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the District to complete the aircraft fleet enhancement plan presented to the Board in 2016. Furthermore, the recommended actions will enhance the District's helicopter fleet to meet the ever-increasing emergency response challenges associated with protecting lives and property in today's wildfire environment.

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 the County's fiscal strength through long-term planning.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The purchase of the two Firehawks, including tax, has a total cost not to exceed \$73.5 million. Payments will be made in installments with an estimated \$51.4 million due in FY 2025-26 and an estimated \$22.1 million due in FY 2026-27. The \$51.4 million due in FY 2025-26 will be funded by \$41.5 million of Measure E revenue included in the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget and \$9.879 million from the Fire Department Helicopter ACO Fund – Committed for Program Expansion. The District intends to utilize \$22.1 million of Measure E revenue in FY 2026-27 for the remaining payments. However, since the FY 2026-27 Measure E spending plan has not yet been approved, the District is seeking authorization to obtain third-party financing to cover the remaining payments if necessary.

The \$73.5 million cost estimate includes a 15% reciprocal tariff that may be imposed on the import of products from the European Union to the United States. The value of the tariffs will not be definitized until the final payment invoice. As a result, the District is requesting delegated authority to revise the acquisition cost due to the tariffs with advance notice to the Board. This cost estimate does not account for the potential trade-in or sale of the two District helicopters. Any proceeds generated from this trade-in or sale will be used to offset the purchase of two new Firehawks.

Approval of the Appropriation Adjustment will transfer \$41.5 million from the Fire Department - Measure E Special Tax Fund and \$9.879 million from the Fire Department Helicopter ACO Fund – Committed for Program Expansion to the Fire Department Helicopter ACO Fund Capital Asset (CA) – Equipment appropriation to cover the estimated FY 2025-26 costs.

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

The District plans on utilizing future Measure E revenue or funding in the Helicopter ACO Fund – Committed for Program Expansion for the conversion work. There is no impact to net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The agreement's standard terms and conditions will be negotiated by the County Purchasing Agent with assistance from CEO Risk Management and County Counsel.

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

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

CONTRACTING PROCESS

This is a 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.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The new S-70i Firehawks will enhance the District's fleet of multi-mission aerial firefighting helicopters. These two new aircraft will provide upgraded operational capabilities to meet current and anticipated future multi-mission requirements.

CONCLUSION

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

Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
Executive Office – Business Operations
Attention: Jasmine Anderson, Administrative Services Manager II
1320 North Eastern Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90063
Jasmine.Anderson@fire.lacounty.gov

Internal Services Department
Purchasing and Contracts Services
Attention: Sumit Sharma, Division Manager
1100 North Eastern Avenue, Suite 102
Los Angeles, CA 90063
Sumit.Sharma@isd.lacounty.gov

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

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

9/30/2025

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Anthony C. Marrone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "A" and "M".

ANTHONY C. MARRONE

FIRE CHIEF

ACM:rg

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Internal Services Department

PINK

BA FORM 10142022

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OFFICIAL COPY

September 30, 2025

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**FY 2025-26****4 - VOTES****SOURCES****USES****FIRE DEPARTMENT - MEASURE E SPECIAL TAX FUND**

DA2-FR-6030-40200

CAPITAL ASSETS - EQUIPMENT

DECREASE APPROPRIATION 41,500,000**FIRE DEPARTMENT - MEASURE E SPECIAL TAX FUND**

DA2-FR-6100-40200

OTHER FINANCING USES

INCREASE APPROPRIATION 41,500,000**FIRE DEPARTMENT HELICOPTER A.C.O. FUND**

BR5-FR-96-9911-40730

OPERATING TRANSFERS IN

INCREASE REVENUE 41,500,000**FIRE DEPARTMENT HELICOPTER A.C.O. FUND**

BR5-FR-6030-40730

CAPITAL ASSETS - EQUIPMENT

INCREASE APPROPRIATION 51,379,000**FIRE DEPARTMENT HELICOPTER A.C.O. FUND**

BR5-3017

COMMITTED FOR PROGRAM EXPANSION

DECREASE OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE 9,879,000**SOURCES TOTAL \$ 92,879,000****USES TOTAL \$ 92,879,000****JUSTIFICATION**

This budget adjustment reflects the transfer of \$41.5 million from the Fire Department Measure E Special Tax Fund and \$9.879 million from the Fire Department Helicopter Accumulated Capital Outlay (A.C.O.) Fund - Committed for Program Expansion to the Helicopter A.C.O. Fund Capital Asset - Equipment appropriation for a total of \$51.4 million. The fund will be utilized to purchase two new S-70i Firehawk helicopters, which has a total cost not to exceed \$73.5 million.

ADOPTEDBOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

47 September 30, 2025

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


EDWARD YEN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER**Jessica Lindsey**Digitally signed by Jessica Lindsey
DN: cn=Jessica Lindsey, o=County of Los Angeles, ou=Fire
Dept - FMD, email=Jessica.Lindsey@fire.lacounty.gov, c=US
Date: 2025.09.03 12:11:56 -07'00'**AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE**

JESSICA LINDSEY, ASM III

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF
EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR---☐ ACTION☒ RECOMMENDATION

Andrea

Digitally signed by
Andrea Turner
Date: 2025.09.03
14:04:08 -07'00'

BY Turner

DATE 9/3/25

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

B.A. NO. 022



APPROVED AS REQUESTED



APPROVED AS REVISED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Brian

BY Hoffman

Digitally signed by
Brian Hoffman
Date: 2025.09.04
08:24:44 -07'00'

DATE 9/4/25

SOLE SOURCE REQUEST QUESTIONNAIRE

It is the policy of the County to solicit the maximum number of bids/proposals for a commodity or service from the largest relevant market and to select vendors on a competitive basis.

There are certain acquisitions which, when in the best interest of the County, can only be obtained from a sole source. Sole source acquisitions must be justified in sufficient detail to explain the basis for suspending the usual competitive procurement process.

NOTE: Please refer to Procedure P-3700 of the ISD Purchasing Policies and Procedures Manual.

DOCUMENTATION FOR SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION MUST INCLUDE RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What is being requested?
Two Sikorsky Firehawk helicopters

2. Why is the product needed – how will it be used?
These helicopters are replacements for the District's legacy S-70A aircraft, identified as critical components in the District's Aircraft Fleet Enhancement Plan approved in October 2016. Their acquisition is essential to maintaining the operational availability required to meet mission demands. Replacing the aging fleet ensures the District can sustain its aerial emergency response capabilities, which are vital to protecting lives and property amid the increasing intensity and frequency of wildfires.

3. Is this "brand" of product the only one that meets the user's requirements? If yes, what is unique about the product?
Yes. In 2000, the District partnered with Sikorsky to develop the S-70 Firehawk helicopter. Over the past 25 years, the District has operated the S-70 Firehawk, which has consistently proven to be the most capable multi-mission aircraft available. The District currently operates the S-70i variant, and acquiring a form-fit-function replacement for the legacy S-70A ensures fleet standardization. This alignment is essential to avoid operational disruption, additional training pipelines, and sustainment continuity in supporting an already established and proven aerial firefighting and emergency response capability.

4. Have other products/vendors been considered? If yes, which products/vendors have been considered and how did they fail to meet the user's requirements?
No.

5. Will purchase of this product avoid other costs, e.g. data conversion, etc. or will it incur additional costs, e.g. training, conversion, etc.?
The S-70A Firehawk has reached its critical airframe life limit, where a combination of service life extension efforts, major structural repairs, escalating maintenance costs, and critical component obsolescence has made continued operation and sustainment of the legacy aircraft cost-and time-prohibitive. This purchase aligns with industry best practices and leverages modern avionics, improved safety features and streamlined maintenance. Furthermore, the decreasing availability of formal S-70A Firehawk simulator and factory training presents a significant challenge in meeting Federal Aviation Administration requirements for pilot and flight crew currency.

6. Is the product proprietary or is it available from various dealers? Have you verified this?
Yes, it is proprietary to the Original Equipment Manufacturer, Lockheed Martin – Sikorsky
7. Reasonableness of Price: Does the County obtain a percentage discount or special discount not available to the private sector?
N/A
8. What is the dollar value of existing equipment and the Purchase Order No. for the existing equipment?
N/A