



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  
(323) 881-2401  
[www.fire.lacounty.gov](http://www.fire.lacounty.gov)



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

HILDA L. SOLIS, CHAIR FIRST DISTRICT	
HOLLY J. MITCHELL SECOND DISTRICT	LINDSEY P. HORVATH THIRD DISTRICT
JANICE HAHN FOURTH DISTRICT	KATHRYN BARGER FIFTH DISTRICT

April 07, 2026

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:

**APPROVE THE SOLE SOURCE ACQUISITION OF MISSION EQUIPMENT SYSTEMS AND FINAL  
OUTFITTING FOR TWO SIKORSKY S-70i FIREHAWK™ HELICOPTERS AND AN  
APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (4-VOTES)  
FY 2025-26**

**SUBJECT**

The Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (District) is requesting Board of Supervisors (Board) approval for the sole source acquisitions of mission equipment and final outfitting for two Sikorsky S-70i Firehawk™ helicopters for a total acquisition cost not to exceed \$19.5 million, including taxes.

The District also requests Board approval of an appropriation adjustment to use \$6.090 million from the Fire Department Helicopter Accumulated Capital Outlay (ACO) Fund's obligated fund balance – Committed for Program Expansion and \$1.728 million from the Fire Department's obligated fund balance – Committed for Budget Uncertainties to the Fire Department Helicopter ACO Fund Services & Supplies (S&S) and Capital Asset (CA) – 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 sole source acquisition process of mission equipment systems, final outfitting, and configuration of two Sikorsky S-70i Firehawk™ helicopters for a total acquisition cost not to exceed \$19.5 million, including estimated tariffs and sales/use taxes.
2. Authorize the Fire Chief or his designee, and ISD as the County Purchasing Agent, to complete

and execute all necessary purchasing documents related to completion activities of two S-70i Firehawk™ helicopters.

3. Approve the appropriation adjustment to use \$6.090 million from the Fire Department Helicopter Accumulated Capital Outlay (ACO) Fund's obligated fund balance – Committed for Program Expansion and \$1.728 million from the Fire Department's obligated fund balance – Committed for Budget Uncertainties to the Fire Department Helicopter ACO Fund S&S and CA appropriation for this purchase.
4. Find that this purchase is exempt from the provision of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

On September 30, 2025, your Board approved the acquisition of two Sikorsky S-70i Firehawk™ helicopters from the Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation as fleet replacements due to significant increased sustainment efforts, critical component obsolescence, and time-consuming and cost-prohibitive service life extensions. Approval of the recommended actions will allow for the necessary installation of mission equipment, required augmentation, final outfitting, and configuration conformance with existing fleet S-70i helicopters in meeting the ever-increasing emergency response mandate associated with protecting lives and property.

The necessary mission equipment and final outfitting will consist of the procurement and subsequent installation of aerial firefighting water tank systems, avionics and communication components, advanced life support medical suites, high-intensity searchlights, hoist systems, landing gear, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) required transponder systems, and component sparing to sustain these newly acquired aircraft.

### **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 Fire Department Helicopter Accumulated Capital Outlay (ACO) Fund Fiscal Year 2025-26 Adjusted Budget has \$11.682 million available for this purchase.

Approval of the appropriation adjustment will use \$6.090 million from the Fire Department Helicopter ACO Fund's obligated fund balance – Committed for Program Expansion and \$1.728 million from the Fire Department's obligated fund balance – Committed for Budget Uncertainties to the Fire Department Helicopter ACO Fund S&S and CA appropriation to fund the remaining \$7.818 million needed for the estimated mission equipment acquisition and final outfitting cost of \$19.5 million.

District funds were accumulated in the Helicopter ACO Fund's reserves over multiple fiscal years to facilitate helicopter replacement. The District also plans on utilizing future Measure E revenue or

future funding in the Helicopter ACO Fund to restore the Fire Department – Committed for Budget Uncertainties used for this purchase.

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. Sole source purchases 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)**

Once fully equipped and augmented, this activity will operationalize the two new S-70i Firehawk™ helicopters acquisition by replacing the obsolete S-70A helicopters. These new aircraft will provide upgraded operational capabilities to meet current and anticipated future 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: Ted Lo, Acting Division Manager  
1100 North Eastern Avenue, Suite 102

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

4/7/2026

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Los Angeles, CA 90063

tlo2@isd.lacounty.gov

The District 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 style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

ANTHONY C. MARRONE

FIRE CHIEF

ACM:bb

Enclosures

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

April 07, 2026

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**

DA1-3047  
COMMITTED FOR BUDGET UNCERTAINTIES  
**DECREASE OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE** **1,728,000**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT - FINANCING ELEMENTS BUDGET UNIT**

DA1-FR-6100-40100-40109  
OTHER FINANCING USES  
**INCREASE APPROPRIATION** **1,728,000**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT HELICOPTER A.C.O. FUND**

BR5-FR-96-9911-40730  
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN  
**INCREASE REVENUE** **1,728,000**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT HELICOPTER A.C.O. FUND**

BR5-FR-2000-40730  
SERVICES & SUPPLIES  
**INCREASE APPROPRIATION** **2,454,000**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT HELICOPTER A.C.O. FUND**

BR5-3017  
COMMITTED FOR PROGRAM EXPANSION  
**DECREASE OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE** **6,090,000**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT HELICOPTER A.C.O. FUND**

BR5-FR-6030-40730  
CAPITAL ASSETS - EQUIPMENT  
**INCREASE APPROPRIATION** **5,364,000**

**SOURCES TOTAL** **\$ 9,546,000**

**USES TOTAL** **\$ 9,546,000**

**JUSTIFICATION**

Reflects the use of obligated fund balances – Committed for Budget Uncertainties and Committed for Program Expansion to fund the acquisitions of mission equipment and final outfitting, including replacement equipment, for two Sikorsky S-70i Firehawk™ helicopters for a total acquisition cost not to exceed \$19.5 million, including taxes. The sole source purchase of the two helicopters has an estimated cost of \$73.5 million and was adopted by the Board on September 30, 2025.

**Jessica Lindsey**

Digitally signed by Jessica Lindsey  
Date: 2026.03.05 09:16:13 -08'00'

**AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE**

JESSICA LINDSEY, ASM III

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

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR---

ACTION

RECOMMENDATION  
**Andrea Turner**  
Digitally signed by Andrea Turner  
Date: 2026.03.05 09:51:49 -08'00'

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

B.A. NO. **194**

DATE **3/5/26**

APPROVED AS REQUESTED

APPROVED AS REVISED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Brian Hoffman**  
Digitally signed by Brian Hoffman  
Date: 2026.03.05 12:12:14 -08'00'

DATE

# SOLE SOURCE/BRAND SPECIFIC JUSTIFICATION FORM

All negotiated transactions exceeding \$5,000 must be reported to the Board of Supervisors.

**Please check applicable box:**

**SOLE SOURCE** - The product/service is exclusively available from only one supplier/source. **NOTE:** An item being a "sole brand" or a "sole manufacturer" does not automatically qualify a "sole source" as manufacturers sell their products through distributors.

**BRAND SPECIFIC** - A request that requires a specific brand name and/or model (also known as a "Do Not Substitute" request). The product may be available through various distributors.

**Date:**

**Department:**

**RQN:**

**Commodity/Service**

**Vendor:**

**Total Amount of Purchase:**

**A Sole Source or Brand Specific must meet at least one of the following criteria:**

(Check all that apply)

**One-of-a-kind:**  
The commodity or service has no competitive product alternatives available.

**Product Proprietary:**  
The commodity or service requirements can only be met by only one vendor/supplier.

**Compatibility:**  
The commodity or service must match existing brand of equipment for compatibility.

**Time Frame:**  
The department's required time frame for project completion is critical and cannot be exceeded without extreme hardship.

**Replacement Part:**  
The commodity is a direct replacement part for a specific brand of existing equipment and has no substitutes.

**Service Continuity:**  
The cost to continue with the same service provider is less than the cost for any other vendor due to the time necessary to get "up to speed" (learning curve) with the project.

**01. What is being requested?**

The purchase of two Sikorsky S70 Firehawk Aerial Liquid Dispensing System (ALDS) otherwise known as a aerial fire-fighting watertanks.

**02. Explain the reason that this product or service's unique features are indispensable to your operation:**

The ALDS is the single most important component of the completion package that reconfigures the Sikorsky S70 Blackhawk into the multi-mission Firehawk utilized by the Fire Department, it is specifically essential to the aerial fire-fighting mission.

**03. Have other products been considered? List the products considered and reason for disqualification?**

No other product has been considered. The KATI ALDS is the only system currently installed on the Department's two existing S-70i Firehawk helicopters and is the only system that is compatible with, and can be retrofitted to, the legacy S-70A Firehawk helicopters.

**04. Will the item be an interface (match and inter-member), addition, or repair to the existing equipment? Identify the existing equipment and provide additional justification.**

The ALDS will interface directly with the Sikorsky S70 Firehawk helicopters.

**05. Was this product or service previously purchased?** YES  NO

**05a. If yes, please provide prior PO #.**

Previous ALDS were procured through a much larger Service Contract with United Rotorcraft that performed the completion services that outfitted the last two Firehawks. PO-FR-19005938 & PO-FR-19006461.

**06. Provide any other information relevant to the proprietary nature (ie. patents) of this product or service.**

Kawak Aviation Technologies owns all the rights and is the sole manufacturer of the ALDS and its parts.

**REQUESTOR NAME:** Dennis Blumenthal **SIGNATURE:**   
**TITLE:** Chief, Helicopter Maintenance **EMAIL:** dennis.blumenthal@fir.lacounty.g

----- **ISD USE ONLY** -----  
**PURCHASING ANALYST:**  **DATE SUBMITTED:**

**ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION (IF NEEDED):** Describe all actions you have taken to reach your conclusion. Explain potential consequences for substitution of product/service. Include basis used to determine reasonableness of price and, if applicable, efforts to develop additional sources. Provide complete, brief, clear explanation. (Use reverse side of this sheet or attached additional sheet(s).

**Board Summary:**

**ISD PURCHASING MANGEMENT'S APPROVAL:**  
Section Mgr. - \$24,999.99 and under -----

Division Mgr. - \$25,000.00 and above -----

# SOLE SOURCE/BRAND SPECIFIC JUSTIFICATION FORM

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- BRAND SPECIFIC** - A request that requires a specific brand name and/or model (also known as a "Do Not Substitute" request). The product may be available through various distributors.

Date:

Department:

RQN:

Commodity/Service

Vendor:

Total Amount of Purchase:

**A Sole Source or Brand Specific must meet at least one of the following criteria:**

(Check all that apply)

**One-of-a-kind:**  
The commodity or service has no competitive product alternatives available.

**Product Proprietary:**  
The commodity or service requirements can only be met by only one vendor/supplier.

**Compatibility:**  
The commodity or service must match existing brand of equipment for compatibility.

**Time Frame:**  
The department's required time frame for project completion is critical and cannot be exceeded without extreme hardship.

**Replacement Part:**  
The commodity is a direct replacement part for a specific brand of existing equipment and has no substitutes.

**Service Continuity:**  
The cost to continue with the same service provider is less than the cost for any other vendor due to the time necessary to get "up to speed" (learning curve) with the project.

**01. What is being requested?**

S-70 Blackhawk conversion to the Firehawk™ variant for two (2) multi-mission form-fit-function replacement helicopters.

**02. Explain the reason that this product or service's unique features are indispensable to your operation:**

This conversion replaces two of the District's oldest S-70A aircraft with two Board-approved Sikorsky S-70i helicopters currently in production. Without these replacements, the District will experience reduced aircraft availability, increased strain on the remaining fleet, and accelerated loss of service life. +

**03. Have other products been considered? List the products considered and reason for disqualification?**

No other vendor is authorized or certified by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to perform the required modifications associated with the Firehawk™ conversion. United Rotorcraft is the sole approved provider permitted to execute this work. Additionally, flight safety is enhanced by maintaining aircraft conformity with all Firehawk aircraft. +

**04. Will the item be an interface (match and inter-member), addition, or repair to the existing equipment? Identify the existing equipment and provide additional justification.**

No.

**05. Was this product or service previously purchased?** YES  NO

**05a. If yes, please provide prior PO #.**

PO-FR-19005938

**06. Provide any other information relevant to the proprietary nature (ie. patents) of this product or service.**

United Rotorcraft maintains exclusive design authority, proprietary engineering data, and OEM-approved supplemental type certificate (STC) authority for the S-70i Black Hawk-to-Firehawk™ conversion. The integration of the fire suppression tank system, structural airframe modifications, mission avionics, hydraulic and electrical system reconfiguration, and associated flight control and weight-and-balance adjustments are governed by proprietary technical data packages and FAA-approved engineering approvals that are not publicly available. As the sole holder of the Firehawk™ conversion intellectual property, production tooling, conformity procedures, and continued operational safety documentation, United Rotorcraft is uniquely positioned to ensure airworthiness, configuration control, and lifecycle support in accordance with OEM and regulatory requirements. No other vendor possesses these requirements. +

**REQUESTOR NAME:** Benjamin Berman **SIGNATURE:**  Digitally signed by Benjamin Berman  
Date: 2026.02.23 15:48:31 -08'00'  
**TITLE:** Chief, Air Operations **EMAIL:** Benjamin.Berman@fire.lacounty. +

----- **ISD USE ONLY** -----  
**PURCHASING ANALYST:**  **DATE SUBMITTED:**

**ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION (IF NEEDED):** Describe all actions you have taken to reach your conclusion. Explain potential consequences for substitution of product/service. Include basis used to determine reasonableness of price and, if applicable, efforts to develop additional sources. Provide complete, brief, clear explanation. (Use reverse side of this sheet or attached additional sheet(s).

**Board Summary:**

**ISD PURCHASING MANGEMENT'S APPROVAL:**  
Section Mgr. - \$24,999.99 and under -----

Division Mgr. - \$25,000.00 and above -----