



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



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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August 04, 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 ONE SIKORSKY S-70i FIREHAWK™,
THE SOLE SOURCE ACQUISITION OF MISSION EQUIPMENT SYSTEMS AND FINAL
OUTFITTING AND AN APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT
FY 2026-27
(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 one Sikorsky S-70i Firehawk™ helicopter and the sole source acquisition of mission equipment systems, final outfitting and configuration of one Sikorsky S-70i Firehawk™ helicopter. 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 use \$43.1 million from the Fire Department obligated fund balance Committed for Budget Uncertainties and transfer those funds to the Fire Department Helicopter Accumulated Capital Outlay (ACO) Fund Capital Asset (CA) – Equipment for the purchase of one Sikorsky S-70i Firehawk™ helicopter.

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 one Sikorsky S-70i Firehawk™ helicopter, for a total acquisition cost not to exceed \$43.1 million, including estimated tariffs and sales/use taxes.

2. Authorize the Internal Services Department (ISD), as the County Purchasing Agent, to proceed with the sole source acquisition of the mission equipment systems, final outfitting, and configuration of one Sikorsky S-70i Firehawk™ helicopter for a total acquisition cost not to exceed \$6.6 million, including sales/use taxes.
3. 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.
4. 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 one S-70i Firehawk™ helicopter and the mission equipment systems, final outfitting and configuration of the S-70i Firehawk™.
5. Approve the appropriation adjustment to use \$43.1 million from the Fire Department obligated fund balance Committed for Budget Uncertainties and transfer those funds to the Fire Department Helicopter ACO Fund Capital Asset (CA) – Equipment appropriation for the purchase of the one new S-70i Firehawk™.
6. Authorize the Fire Chief or his designee, and ISD as the County Purchasing Agent, to execute a potential trade-in or sale of Helicopters 15 and 19, to offset the purchase of the one new S-70i Firehawk™.
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. These two original S-70A Firehawk™ helicopters were acquired in 2000 and the third in 2004, combined they have surpassed a total of 19,000 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 configuration differences between the S-70A Firehawk™ and S-70i Firehawk™ helicopters 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. The addition of one S-70i Firehawk™ model aligns with industry best practices and leverages modern avionics, improved safety features, and streamlined maintenance.

The necessary mission equipment, final outfitting and configuration 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 the newly acquired aircraft.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the District to further implement 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 and will allow for the necessary installation of mission equipment, required augmentation, final outfitting, and configuration conformance with existing fleet S-70i Firehawk™ helicopters.

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 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.

The purchase of one S-70i Firehawk™, including tax, has a total cost not to exceed \$43.1 million. The District intends to utilize \$43.1 million of obligated fund balance Committed for Budget Uncertainties to fully fund the acquisition cost in FY 2026-27.

The \$43.1 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 one new S-70i Firehawk™.

Approval of the appropriation adjustment will use \$43.1 million from the Fire Department obligated fund balance Committed for Budget Uncertainties and transfer those funds to the Fire Department Helicopter ACO Fund Capital Asset (CA) – Equipment to cover the estimated helicopter acquisition cost in FY 2026-27.

The acquisition of mission equipment systems and final outfitting to bring one S-70i Firehawk™ into service will occur at a later date and has a total cost not to exceed \$6.6 million. Funding for this item will be incorporated into the District's FY 2026-27 or FY 2027-28 Budget.

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 Firehawk™ will enhance the District's fleet of multi-mission aerial firefighting helicopters. The one 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: Ted Lo, Acting Division Manager
1100 North Eastern Avenue, Suite 102
Los Angeles, CA 90063
Tedlo2@isd.lacounty.gov

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

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

8/4/2026

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony C. Marrone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping tail.

ANTHONY C. MARRONE

FIRE CHIEF

ACM:db

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

August 04, 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 2026-27
4 - VOTES

SOURCES		USES	
FIRE DEPARTMENT DA1-3047 COMMITTED FOR BUDGET UNCERTAINTIES DECREASE OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE		FIRE DEPARTMENT - FINANCING ELEMENTS BUDGET UNIT DA1-FR-6100-40100-40109 OTHER FINANCING USES INCREASE APPROPRIATION	
43,100,000		43,100,000	
FIRE DEPARTMENT HELICOPTER A.C.O. FUND BR5-FR-96-9911-40730 OPERATING TRANSFERS IN INCREASE REVENUE		FIRE DEPARTMENT HELICOPTER A.C.O. FUND BR5-FR-6030-40730 CAPITAL ASSETS - EQUIPMENT INCREASE APPROPRIATION	
43,100,000		43,100,000	
SOURCES TOTAL		USES TOTAL	
\$ 86,200,000		\$ 86,200,000	

JUSTIFICATION

Reflects the use of \$43.1 million from the Fire Department obligated fund balances – Committed for Budget Uncertainties to the Fire Department Helicopter Accumulated Capital Outlay (A.C.O.) Fund Capital Assets-Equipment for a sole source purchase of one Sikorsky S-70i Firehawk helicopter, which has a total cost not to exceed \$43.1 million.

Jessica Lindsey
Digitally signed by Jessica Lindsey
Date: 2026.07.07 08:01:09 -07'00'
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: 2026.07.07
08:55:54 -07'00'

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

B.A. NO. 007

DATE 7/7/26

☒ APPROVED AS REQUESTED

☐ APPROVED AS REVISED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Brian
Hoffman

Digitally signed by Brian Hoffman
Date: 2026.07.07 08:12:47 -07'00'

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: 06/03/2026

Department: Fire Department

RQN: B-260041

Commodity/Service 1 each, Sikorsky S70i Helicopter

Vendor: Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation

Total Amount of Purchase: \$43,038,462.50

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?

Purchase of one new Sikorsky S70i Helicopter.

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

The purchase of this new aircraft is to replace existing and aging legacy Sikorsky S70a aircraft and modernize the Departments fleet of helicopters.

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

The Sikorsky S70 aircraft have been part of the Departments fleet for 25 years, its dependability and its capability in the multi-mission role, e.g., firefighting, search and rescue, and air medical transport, will always justify its position as the Departments front line helicopter. There are no other type 1 helicopters, at this time, that meet the Departments requirements.

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.

This newest helicopter purchase, combined with the October 2025 contract for two new S-70i helicopters, will complete the Departments fleet modernization plan by replacing all legacy helicopters and maintaining a fleet of five multi-mission Fire Hawks.

05. Was this product or service previously purchased?

YES ☒ NO ☐

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

PO-FR-26006465 & PO-FR-18361106

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

Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation is the Original Equipment Manufacturer of the S70 helicopter, a derivative of the United States Army's UH60 Black Hawk Helicopter, the entire helicopter is proprietary and only sold by and through Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation.

REQUESTOR NAME: Dennis Blumenthal

SIGNATURE: Dennis Blumenthal
Digitally signed by Dennis Blumenthal
Date: 2026.06.09 16:07:35 -07'00'

TITLE: Chief, Helicopter Maintenance

EMAIL: dennis.blumenthal@fire.lacounty.gov

----- **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 -----