

CITY OF YUBA CITY
STAFF REPORT

Date: June 19, 2018
To: Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council
From: Fire Department
Presentation By: Peter H. Daley, Fire Chief

Summary

Subject: Purchase of one Bauer Breathable Air Compressor and SCBA Fill Station.

Recommendation: Approve the purchase of a Unicas III/13-E1 breathable air compressor with self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) fill station from Bauer Compressors, of Livermore, CA, in the amount of \$54,228.22 by finding that it is in the best interest of the City to do so.

Fiscal Impact: \$54,228.22 out of the Vehicle Replacement Fund Account No. 6610-69415.

Purpose:

Replace the Yuba City Fire Department's 19-year old breathable air compressor.

Background:

One of the greatest innovations in the fire service is the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The SCBA is standard safety equipment for firefighters that allows them to be more effective in environments that are immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH). The SCBA contains breathable compressed air to firefighters, which allows them to gain deeper access into burning structures to perform rescue functions, locate and suppress the fire and prevent further property damage. Once the limited amount of air is depleted in the SCBA's cylinder, the cylinders need to be refilled or replaced with full ones. Breathable air of the highest quality protects firefighters and allows them to do their jobs in IDLH environments.

The Yuba City Fire Department uses an air compressor/fill station to refill the cylinders with purified, (Grade D) breathable air. The current compressor was purchased nineteen years ago and over the past few years, we have experienced service interruptions requiring servicing of the unit. Due to its age, availability of parts has become more problematic. Parts for a recent repair came from Europe and necessitated several weeks of the compressor/fill station being out of service. Due to the limited availability of parts and the age of the current compressor, the Fire Department had requested funds be included in the FY 17-18 City budget to replace the existing compressor. The proposed compressor is an integrated system design that combines a high-pressure compressor, breathing air purification system; air storage system, cascade fill panel, and a three-air cylinder containment fill station into one user-friendly workstation.

Analysis:

The compressor/fill station purchase was delayed until the Fire Department purchased new SCBA's to ensure its compatibility with the new MSA Bauer SCBA's that were recently purchased to be used over the next 15-years. We are recommending that we purchase the Bauer Unicus III/13-E1 breathable air compressor/fill station based upon 1) the compatibility of equipment of the same manufacturer, 2) that Bauer Compressors has been servicing our breathable air compressor and cascade air refill systems, and 3) the experience and longevity of Bauer's maintenance capability.

In the last 10-years, the Sacramento region compressor company we were using has gone out of business causing us to switch to another air compressor company. Bauer is located in the East Bay area that serves most of Northern California. We believe that purchasing the Bauer system will best meet the Department's needs over the next 15 years in providing continuity and consistency.

Fiscal Impact:

\$54,228.22 out of the Vehicle Replacement Fund Account No. 6610-69415. The amount includes equipment purchase, installation, and training for personnel.

Recommendation:

Purchase of a Unicas III/13-E1 breathable air compressor with self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) fill station from Bauer Compressors, of Livermore, CA, in the amount of \$54,228.22 by finding that it is in the best interest of the City to do so.

Prepared By:

Submitted By:

/s/ Peter H. Daley

Peter H. Daley
Fire Chief

/s/ Steven C. Kroeger

Steven C. Kroeger
City Manager

Reviewed By:

Finance
City Attorney

RB
