



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

Date December 30, 2019

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Aram Sahakian, General Manager
Emergency Management Department *A.S. For AS*

RE: RAPID RESPONSE VEHICLES FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Recommendation

That the City Council authorize the purchase of two (2) rapid response emergency vehicles by the Emergency Management Department (EMD) to ensure our staff's ability to respond to field incidents and community preparedness events. EMD has identified available funding in the City's Emergency Operations Fund (EOF) for this purchase.

Background

EMD staff, including our on-call 24-7 Duty Officers, Duty Team Members, and community based Disaster Management Bureau Representatives, are often required to respond to and work in the field during emergencies and public outreach events. At present, our staff have very limited options in terms of available vehicles for such deployment. We have one loaned surplus vehicle from LAPD and in most cases must rely on City Motor Pool fleet vehicles. None of these vehicles are designed or equipped for mobile field response.

EMD has identified available funding for purchase of two properly equipped rapid response vehicles through the City's Emergency Operations Fund. Both the CAO's Office and the Chair of the City's Emergency Operations Board (EOB) have approved use of this funding. CAO advised that EMD request approval from Council in order to move forward with procurement.

Purchase of the recommended vehicles will ensure that EMD Duty Officers and Duty Team Members are able to respond as needed to events, incidents and emergencies on a twenty-four-hour basis. This includes coordination of City Unified Command Posts, activation of and response to the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and other field level events that require effective interagency coordination where EMD responders serve as the incident Liaison Officer. The vehicles would also be available as needed by our Disaster Management Bureau representatives for community education and outreach events including the Ready Your LA Neighborhood (RYLAN) program and related town hall meetings.

Purchase of the appropriately equipped response vehicles will ensure immediate EMD responder access into restricted area field command post locations, and improve EMD's response time to support life-safety priorities. These vehicles will be identified as official City EMD response vehicles and equipped with amber light bars, sirens, radios, satellite telephones, mobile notebook computer, public address system, and supplies necessary to work from a field location for extended periods of time.

The current on loan and Motor Pool vehicles are not properly marked and do not contain any of the required communications equipment. Use of Motor Pool vehicles requires a check out process from City Hall East which is not practical for emergency response purposes. Neither of these options enable rapid, effective access to controlled area field command post locations. Recent events such as the Saddle Ridge and Getty Fires demonstrate the need for these response vehicles for EMD.

The requested vehicles cost approx. \$61,610 each (includes maintenance and annual fuel cost) for a total expenditure of \$123,220.00. I am requesting Council approval in order to move forward with procurement.

Please contact me at 213 484-4800 if you have any questions. Thank you for your support of this critical purchase.