



CITY OF WAUKESHA

Administration

201 Delafield Street, Waukesha, WI 53188
 Tel: 262.524.3701 fax: 262.524.3899
 www.waukesha-wi.gov

Committee: Finance	Date: 10/8/2019
Common Council Item Number: ID# 19-1353	Date: 10/15/2019
Submitted By: Steve Howard, Fire Chief	City Administrator Approval: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator KL
Finance Department Review: Rich Abbott, Finance Director RA	City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney BER
Subject: Authorization to purchase turn-out gear from lower-price vendor without strict compliance with Finance Policy F-6.2.2.	

<p>Details: The Fire Department presently purchases turn-out gear using the V.A.L.U.E. (Volume Acquisition in Large Uniform Expenditures) in Local Government Cooperative Purchasing Program of Southeastern Wisconsin. The City entered into this program pursuant to Financial Policy F-6.2.7, and it has been approved by the Common Council. Because of the volume discounts the program generates, we always presume that it will provide us with the best value, and therefore we do not use the usual informal-bid process required by Financial Policy F-6.2.2.</p> <p>However, the Fire Department has become aware of a vendor, Air One, that can provide turn-out gear at a much better price than the V.A.L.U.E. vendor, \$57 less per set of gear. The Department is also not happy with the level of service being provided by the V.A.L.U.E. vendor. We are asking the permission of the Finance Committee and Common Council to purchase from this alternate vendor, without going through the informal bid process ordinarily required by Finance Policies when going with a non-V.A.L.U.E. vendor. We have confidence that doing so is in the best interest of the City and its taxpayers, because the alternate vendor's price beats the price offered by the V.A.L.U.E. vendor, which is ordinarily the best price we can obtain. Avoiding the informal bid process saves the Department a considerable amount of administrative time and effort, and we have good reason to believe that effort would not result in a better price in any event.</p> <p>To summarize, informal bids would not have been used anyway for this purchase because of the cooperative purchasing agreement. The Department found a better price without having to go through a bid process, so we should take advantage of that.</p>
<p>Options & Alternatives: Deny permission, which would result in using the V.A.L.U.E. vendor and a \$57 per unit higher price.</p>
<p>Financial Remarks: Savings of \$2,337.00 annually. Account 2242-68290</p>
<p>Executive Recommendation: Authorize purchase of turn-out gear from Air One without informal bidding process.</p>

