



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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May 14, 2024

Board of Directors
Ventura County Fire Protection District
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT:

Ratification of the Ventura County Fire Protection District's Submission of a Grant Application to the Ventura County Transportation Commission Incident Responder Grant Program in the Amount of \$543,479, with No Cost Share, for the Acquisition of One Jet Tender to be Utilized for Fueling Helicopters.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ratify the Ventura County Fire Protection District's (Fire District) submission of a grant application, attached as Exhibit 1, to the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) Incident Responder Grant Program for a new Jet Tender for \$543,479 with no cost share.

REASON FOR RATIFICATION:

VCTC announced the call for applications in February 2024, with a due date of March 29, 2024. VCTC held an informational meeting at the end of February. The deadline did not allow the Fire District sufficient time to collaborate with Westmark to receive updated quotes to our specifications, prepare grant applications, and obtain the Board's approval of the final application before the VCTC grant application deadline.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Mandatory: No
Source of Funding: VCTC
Funding Match Required: No
Impact pm Other Departments: None

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

If the grant is awarded, the Fire District will return to the Board for approval to accept the grant and to make any necessary budget modifications. There is no match required.

Current FY 2023-24 Budget Projection for the Fire District - BU 2721				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	185,804,176	215,892,141	208,517,224	7,374,917
Revenue	195,536,454	202,489,153	219,361,862	16,872,709
Net Cost	(9,732,278)	13,402,988	(10,844,638)	24,247,626

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the County's Strategic Plan priority of providing Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities. The grant award will support the implementation of a Jet Tender to enhance the preparedness and response capabilities of the Fire District and our mutual aid partners during emergencies.

DISCUSSION:

The Fire District's grant proposal is for the acquisition of a Jet Tender to provide aviation fuel for helicopters operating out of the Ventura County Aviation Unit (VCAU), which is jointly operated through a cooperative agreement between the Ventura County Sheriff's Office and the Fire District. Although the VCAU has Jet Tenders located at Camarillo Airport, a new technologically advanced fueling system and a shorter wheel-based model will enhance the support of aviation operations.

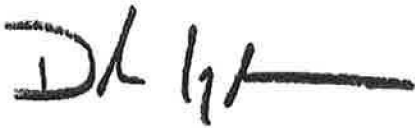
The specifications of the latest Jet Tenders will allow helicopters to be fueled while the engines are running with the latest in precision metering to ensure maximum efficiency and a safer fueling process. Also, the shorter wheelbase of the proposed model types offers greater agility and handling when traveling to the County's diverse geographic locations when refueling off the airport is necessary.

Additionally, the enhanced ability to transport jet fuel to the area of a major emergency enables optimal helicopter service delivery by reducing the flight time back to Camarillo Airport

just for fuel. This also benefits mutual aid helicopters that fly in from out of County locations to our region to assist on incidents such as wildfire events by staging jet fuel nearby.

The Fire District, if the grant is awarded, will carry the Jet Tender as a fixed asset and will be responsible for its maintenance. Furthermore, the Fire Business Services Bureau will strictly adhere to the County of Ventura procurement process and complete all required programmatic progress reports during the grant's life cycle. We ask that your Board approve the grant application submission.

The County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and the County Counsel have reviewed this letter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (805)389-9704 or Support Services Bureau Assistant Chief John Spykerman at (805)389-9728.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dustin Gardner", followed by a horizontal line.

Dustin Gardner
Fire Chief

DG/JS/GF:mm

Attachment: Exhibit 1 – VCTC Grant Proposal