



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

FROM: Susan E Manheimer
Interim Chief of Police

SUBJECT: OPD RSI Helicopter Maintenance
Contract

DATE: May 7, 2020

City Administrator Approval

Date: June 5, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator Or Designee To Enter Into A Professional Services Agreement With Rotorcraft Support, Inc. (RSI) To Provide Helicopter Maintenance Services To The Oakland Police Department (OPD) For The Period Of July 1, 2020 To June 30, 2022 In An Amount Not To Exceed Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) Per Year, Or One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000) For July 1, 2020 To June 30, 2022, With An Option To Extend The Contract For One Additional Year To June 30, 2023, At The Same Rate Of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) Per Year, For A Total Contract Not To Exceed Two Million, Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$2,250,000).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OPD uses helicopters as backup for vehicle-based police patrols during pursuits, arrests, and for directing the deployment of officers at crime scenes. OPD has two patrol helicopters both of which are approximately 30 years old, in addition to a newer training helicopter. These air vehicles are used most days and require increasing levels of on-call mechanical support to maintain safe operational functionality. OPD conducted a Request for Quote (RFQ) and Rotorcraft Support, Inc. (RSI), the current maintenance provider offered the most affordable rates. OPD seeks a contract with RSI for up to \$750,000 per year for two years (\$1.5 million) with an optional third year at the same rate of \$750,000 per year, for a three-year contract total not to exceed \$2,250,000.

The current OPD-RSI contract which expires June 30, 2020 specifies an hourly rate for helicopter maintenance of \$65 per hour to \$135 per hour depending on type of mechanical support, plus a cost structure for vehicle parts – a new contract would maintain this same hourly rate and cost structure. OPD has spent approximately \$400,000 total per year on maintenance (labor and parts), but must budget for a higher level of annual maintenance costs as the OPD helicopter fleet continues to age while also seeing a greater frequency of use. The proposed contract, as outlined in the resolution accompanying this report, will provide for a continuity of maintenance service for OPD's helicopter fleet.

City Council
June 16, 2020

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

OPD uses helicopters for backup for vehicle-based police patrols during pursuits and arrests, and directing the deployment of officers at crime scenes. Helicopters are used most days if not every day for operational support – averaging approximately 1,200 flight hours per year or 100 hours per month. Helicopters play a critical role in policing because they can respond very quickly throughout the city. OPD air patrol can respond in approximately 30 seconds to a crime pursuit or investigation, when called for support – where motor vehicles may take much more time to respond in situations where every minute counts.

Air patrol has provided coverage for incidents in 2020, connected to approximately 600 felony arrests. These cases include homicide, robbery, stolen cars, and house burglaries. This support also includes over 100 vehicle pursuits - air patrol vehicle pursuits are much safer than pursuits via road-based police vehicles due to the inherent danger of the latter type of pursuit for the public, as well as for the suspect and patrol officer. Helicopters also offer unique situational awareness support during sidschows where hundreds if not thousands of people in vehicles gather to engage in highly dangerous and illegal vehicular activity.

Need for Helicopter Maintenance

OPD has two patrol helicopters and one training helicopter. The two patrol helicopters are MD500E model helicopters of which one was built in 1990 (30 years old) and the other was built in 1993 (27 years old). The training helicopter is a Schweizer 300 CBI built in 2005. These helicopters are used consistently and require more expensive parts and mechanical support to maintain safe operational functionality.

The cost for new helicopters exceed OPD's current budget capacity – new similar aircraft would cost approximately \$3.5 million each – and then require an additional one to one and a half million for new law enforcement equipment (e.g. radios, lights, cameras, special electrical wiring). A total refurbishment of current helicopters would cost approximately \$1.5 million each plus additional costs for law enforcement equipment; these options would still require a maintenance contract as well, although the maintenance would be less expensive on newer vehicles.

The following history outlines recent maintenance contracts and related spending authority:

- Big Valley Aviation, Inc. (Big Valley) in an amount not to exceed \$220,214 (May 14, 2013 to June 30, 2014) via Resolution No. 84382 C.M.S.
- Rotorcraft Support, Inc. (RSI) for an amount not to exceed \$400,000 per year (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017) via a cooperative contract agreement with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office.
- RSI (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) through a cooperative agreement with the City of San Diego.
- RSI (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020) through a cooperative agreement with the City of San Diego.

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Recent Uses of OPD Helicopters

- In July 2019, OPD air patrol was called to look for a kayaker in the Oakland estuary who was lost and possibly suffering from hypothermia. The helicopter located the kayaker and the kayaker was safely returned to land.
- In September 2019 during the “Rolling Loud” concert at the Oakland Coliseum, a robbery and shooting occurred. The helicopter located the suspect vehicle and pursued. The suspect fled on foot, and the helicopter directed ground units to the suspect, who was arrested and taken into custody.
- In March 2020, air patrol responded to a Shotspotter¹ alert and located a vehicle associated with the gunfire alert. The helicopter pilot located the suspect vehicle and the driver fled from officers. The helicopter followed the suspect vehicle until it stopped. All 3 shooting suspects were taken into custody
- On May 6, 2020 the OPD helicopter air unit pilot noticed a hill fire near Charles P Howard Elementary School in East Oakland, near the Oakland Zoo; the pilot officer was able to report the fire quickly as the fire burned up the hill and threatened the elementary school – this early notification enabled Oakland Fire Department (OFD) to respond within minutes. The air unit helped direct the OFD responding units to the best firefighting positions, and to place OPD units for traffic control.

OPD advertised a Request for Quote (RFQ) for helicopter maintenance services, on April 3, 2020 which closed on April 16, 2020; the RSI quote offered the lowest prices to OPD for comprehensive helicopter maintenance². RSI is able to provide all the labor, personnel, material, tools, and supplies necessary to maintain OPD’s helicopter fleet on an on-call, as-needed basis. RSI has a valid Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) repair station certificate, and can offer a full staff of FAA certified airframe and powerplant (A&P) mechanics with factory training and recurrent training on the relevant OPD equipment.

The current OPD-RSI contract for the period of 2017 to June 30, 2020 specifies an hourly rate for helicopter maintenance of \$65 per hour to \$135 per hour depending on type of mechanical support, plus a cost structure for vehicle parts – a new contract would maintain this same hourly rate and cost structure. OPD has spent approximately \$400,000 per year on maintenance (labor and parts) over the last five years, but must budget for a higher level of annual maintenance costs as the OPD helicopter fleet continues to age while also seeing a greater frequency of use. The proposed contract by OPD is based on the recently advertised RFQ that would allow for a spending authority not to exceed \$750,000 per year – OPD will not necessarily spend this annual amount. Rather, OPD is requesting a contract with this spending maximum based on expectations that the aging helicopter fleet may need additional parts that will become scarce over time and based on the historical increase in maintenance cost.

¹ <https://www.shotspotter.com/technology>

² The other responsive bidder was Advanced Helicopter Services; RSI bid for hourly mechanical service averages \$100 per hour (\$125 per hour for overtime) whereas the Advanced Helicopter Services bid hourly rate averages \$105 per hour (\$130 per hour for overtime).

FISCAL IMPACT

OPD is asking for spending authority for a contract with RSI for up to \$750,000 per year for a two-year contract, with an optional one year extension at the same spending limit and rate - \$65 per hour to \$135 per hour depending on type of mechanical support, plus a defined cost structure for vehicle parts.

OPD will draw on different sources to fund the cost of the helicopter maintenance contract. For example, OPD has received grant funding from the 2017 and 2018 Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Funding from the Fiscal Year 2017 State of California "Citizens Options for Public Safety" (State Cops Grant XXIII) allocation of \$651,895 can also be utilized. The table below outlines the funding sources OPD plans to use for the first year of the contract.

OPD Funding Source	Amount
State COPS XXIII Grant Funds	\$250,000
2017 JAG Grant	\$150,000
2018 JAG Grant	\$100,000
OPD General Purpose Fund	\$250,000
Total	\$750,000

OPD will need to determine the future source of full funding for years two and three (if optional contract extension is utilized); OPD normally receives State COPS grants based on per-capita formula amounts; OPD often receives federal JAG grants as well but future allocations cannot be guaranteed. OPD will determine the most appropriate funding sources based on to-be-determined future grants as well as the culmination of the mid-cycle Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 mid-cycle budget and bi-annual FY 2021-23 budget.

Funding paid from the following funding codes: General Fund (1010), Special Operations Org (107710), Contract Services Account (54919), Department Admin Project (1000008), Task 1010.PS13.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

No outreach was necessary beyond the standard City legislation publication.

COORDINATION

The Budget Bureau and the Office of the City Attorney were consulted on the development of this report and accompanying resolution.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: The City of Oakland can more readily attract economic activity in a safer city. Helicopter support provides vital support to daily patrol operations which support public safety.

Environmental: There are no environmental issues associated with this report.

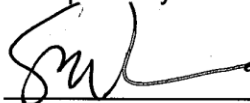
Race and Social Equity: OPD uses helicopters to aid in all variety of patrol operations. Policing operations serve to enhance public safety especially in areas more prone to violent crime. Residents and visitors living in areas with a greater proportion of crime will particularly benefit from police services that promote public safety in these neighborhoods. All Oakland residents and visitors also benefit from efforts to address criminal activity and promote public safety.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator Or Designee To Enter Into A Professional Services Agreement With Rotorcraft Support, Inc. (RSI) To Provide Helicopter Maintenance Services To The Oakland Police Department (OPD) For The Period Of July 1, 2020 To June 30, 2022 In An Amount Not To Exceed Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) Per Year, Or One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000) For July 1, 2020 To June 30, 2022, With An Option To Extend The Contract For One Additional Year To June 30, 2023, At The Same Rate Of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) Per Year, For A Total Contract Not To Exceed Two Million, Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$2,250,000).

For questions concerning this report, please contact Jonathan Vanerwegen, OPD, Helicopter Unit, at (510) 615-5875.

Respectfully submitted,



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