



SOLE SOURCE / BEST SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

To be completed by Unit or Area and include additional details on separate sheets if necessary.

Vendor/Source First Responder Boats LLC

Amount (\$) \$53,560

Unit or Area Fire Services Date 9/16/2023

- Sole Source – A single vendor is uniquely qualified to meet the City’s procurement objective.

Provide an explanation of the “need” that has to be fulfilled, focusing on the requirements (not a description of the product or service, which satisfies that need). Why is this vendor the only one that can fulfill the need identified?

Describe the unique aspects of their product or service and/or attach letter from vendor:

Please see the attached letter from the vendor.

Check appropriate reason below:

- This is a product manufactured by a single vendor.
- This product or service is sold only through this single distributor.
- This service is unique to a single organization.
- An unusual or compelling urgency exists (explain below).

- Best Source – Does the need meet one of the following “best source” definitions instead of the sole source definition referenced above (explain below):
- The product or service must match or be compatible with current equipment or services; or
 - It would not be economically feasible for another vendor to provide the product or service needed; or
 - A single vendor is uniquely qualified to fulfill the City’s need; or
 - An unusual or compelling urgency exists.

What activities have already occurred prior to submitting this request? Discuss what other products and services in the market were reviewed and why they didn’t fulfill the need. Have you already evaluated products or services available on the market and then made a determination that this product or service is the only one that meets your need? Has the vendor already done any work related to this project or purchase?

On Wednesday, July 5, 2023, firefighters were conducting water rescue training for several hours. The training was standard and uneventful. When the boat was brought back to the station, numerous separations were found of key structural components. The adhesive simply failed on numerous areas. The boat was taken out of service for evaluation. We currently have a county boat on loan from Dexter. In speaking with the company who bought the boat, they stated it is end of life. They stated ten-years is the average life. Our boat was purchased in 2009. The boat would need to go to Grand Rapids for repair with no guarantee on future separation. Given this, the prior boat has been decommissioned with the trailer sold via fleet.

The two most senior AAFD members of the County Water Rescue have been researching boat options since July. These members went to Kentucky to research this brand. They are strongly recommending this due to the hazards and low water encountered in the Huron River.